We the People

HIGHWAY MAN VAN DYKE
May tunnel the Alleghenies
(SEE PAGE 11)

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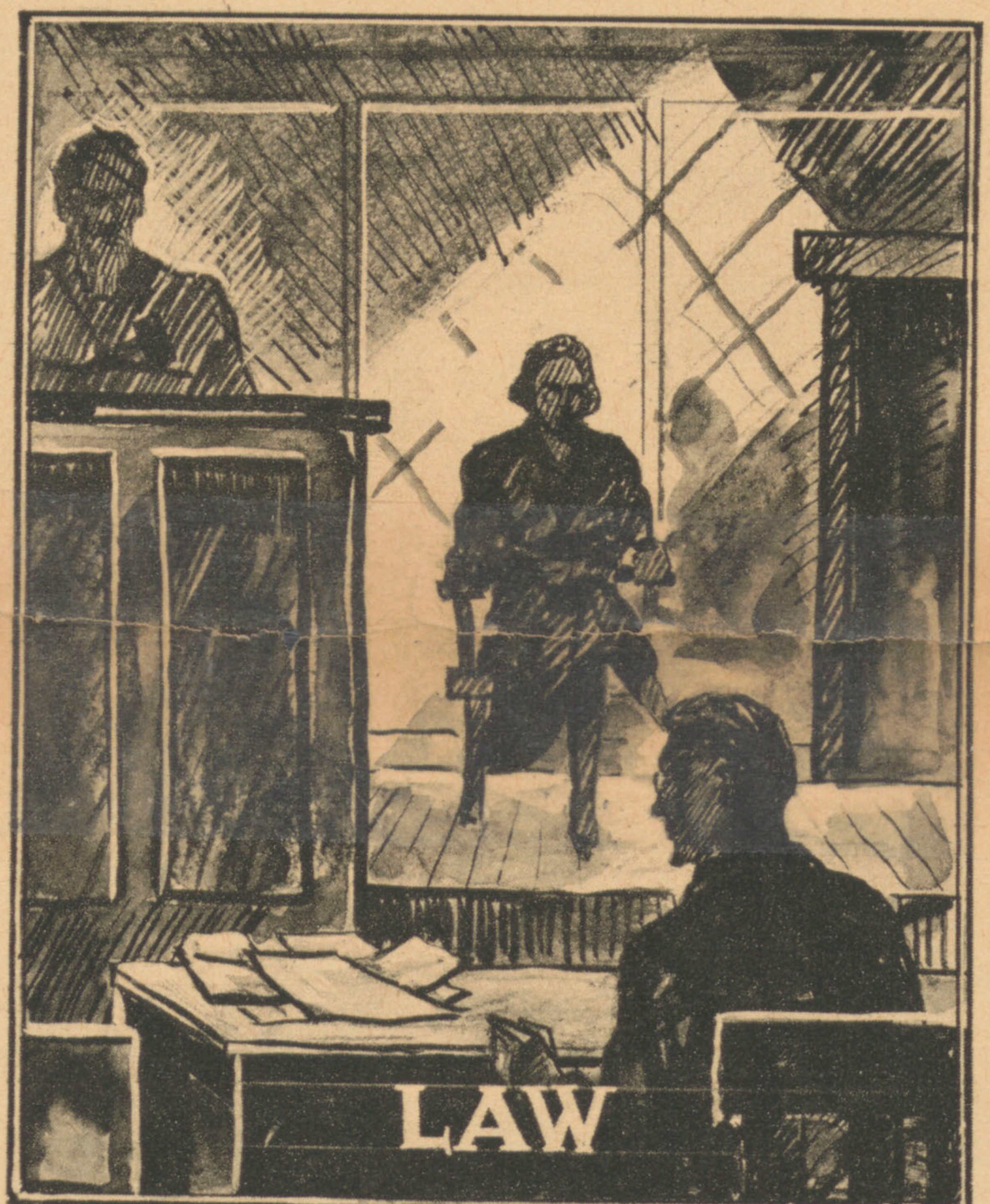
JANUARY 4, 1937

In this Issue . . .

HALF-WAY
"PENNSYLVANIA IN REVIEW"

WE THE PEOPLE



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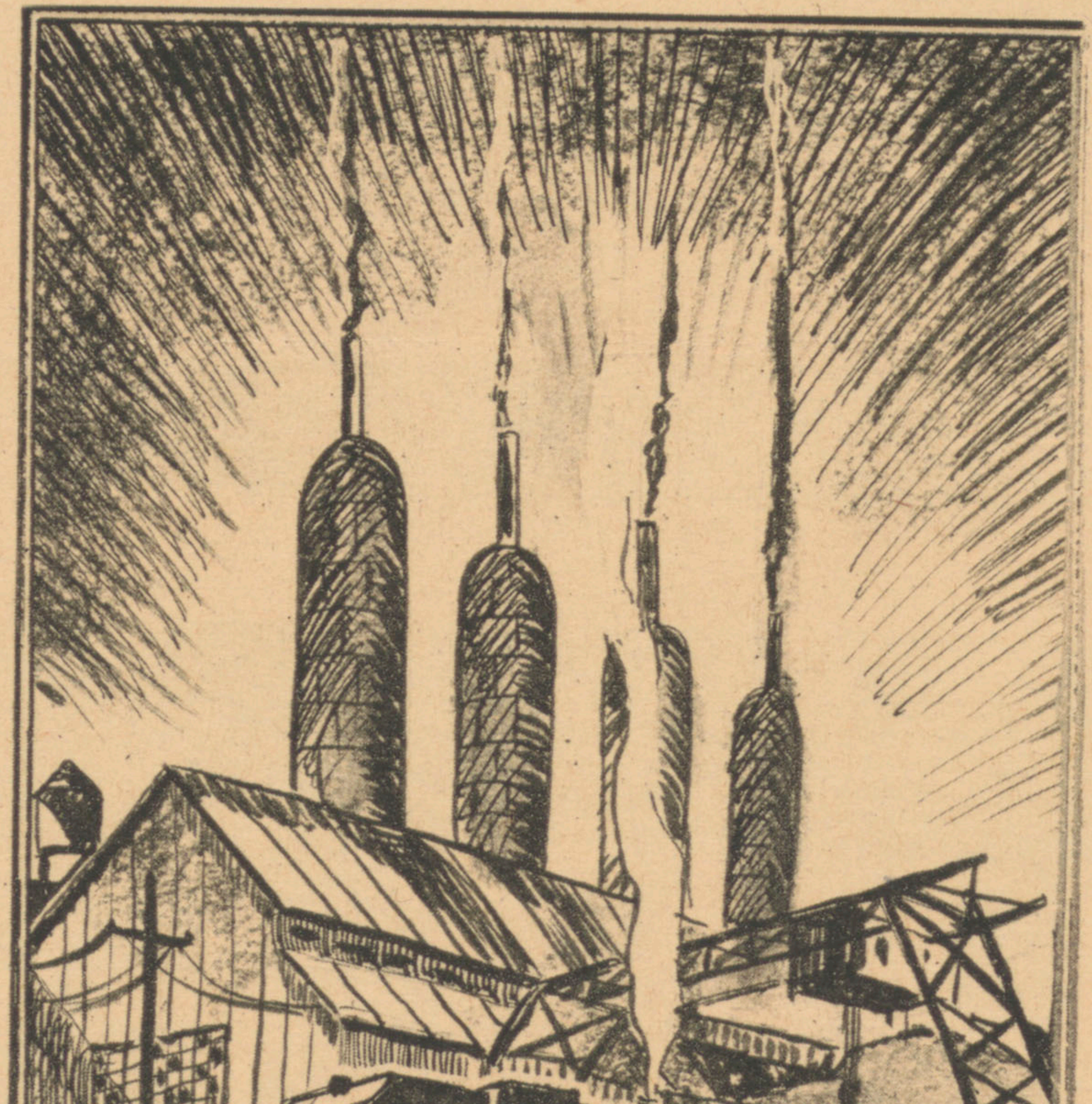

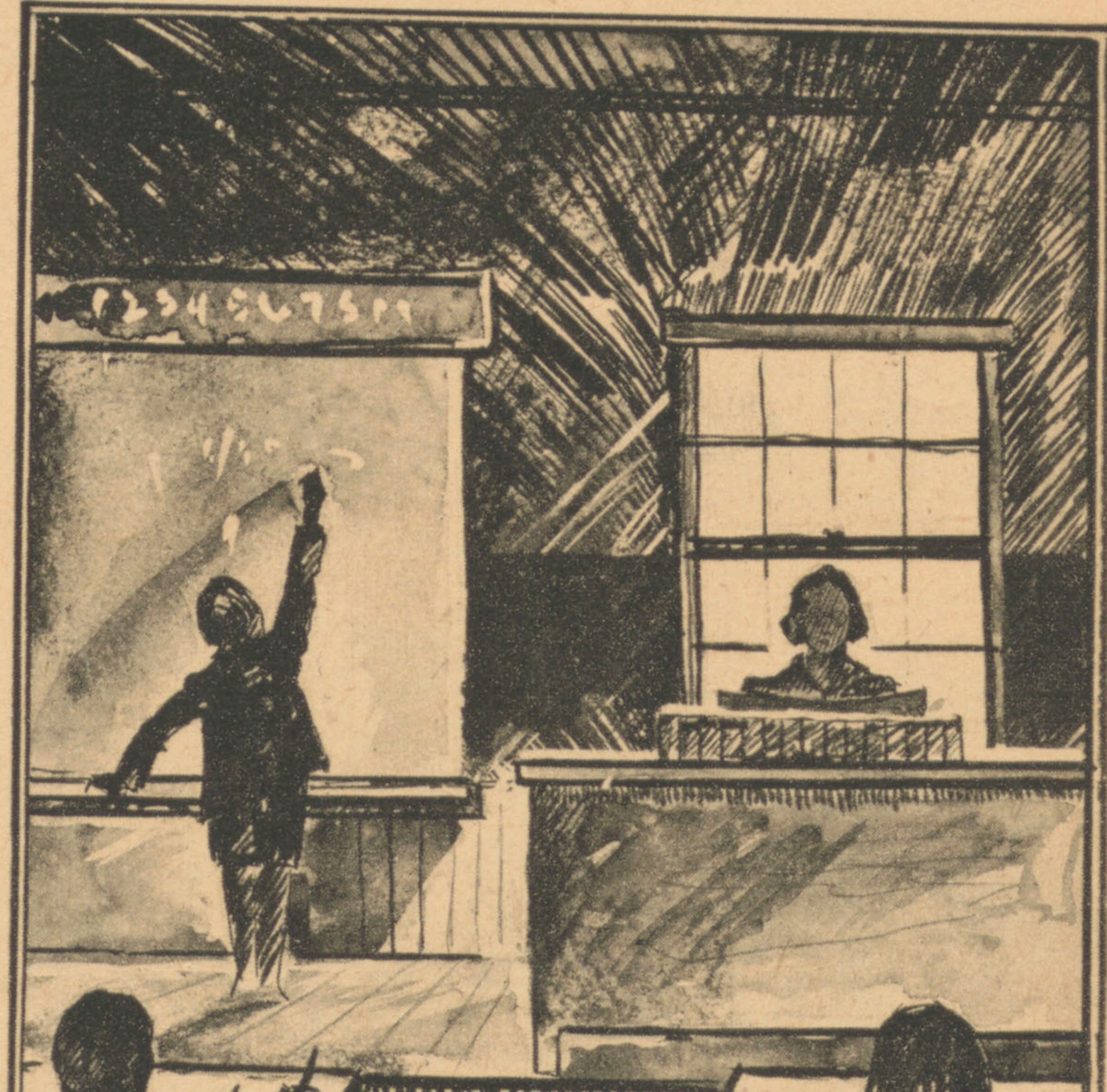

We the People

"PENNSYLVANIA IN REVIEW"

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VOL. 2, No. 1 HARRISBURG, PA. JANUARY 4, 1937

WE BECOME A WEEKLY

ALMOST a year a ago a new magazine came on the Pennsylvania scene.

WE THE PEOPLE was conceived to meet a pressing need during a critical period in the State and the nation. We believe it has won itself a permanent place in all Pennsylvania homes where liberalism abides.

During the months that have passed, there are many who took it for granted that WE THE PEOPLE was just another "campaign paper." Many deliberately fostered that thought. A favorite descriptive term frequently used in Tory newspapers was "propoganda sheet of the Democratic party."

But now that the campaign is history it can be told that the Democratic Party had nothing to do with the birth or bringing-up of WE THE PEOPLE.

In those days when almost all the newspapers in Pennsylvania were aligned against the cause of liberalism, it was perhaps natural that any paper which championed liberal principles should be thought the "mouthpiece" of the party which espoused the cause of liberalism.

This publication was conceived and created by persons who thought it not only necessary but mandatory that "the other side" of the political picture in Pennsylvania be presented to the citizens of this commonwealth.

"The other side" was the people's side. And in undertaking to disseminate real facts about real issues, WE THE PEOPLE received the enthusiastic support of "the other side"—the great army of Pennsylvania's liberal citizenship.

And so we regard the election's result not only as a mandate to those elected to high office, and those already in high office, to remedy existing evils in our social and economic life; but also as a mandate to us to carry on in the cause in which this publication was conceived and to which it has been dedicated.

Symbol of the New Deal, the Democratic Party is speeding to a showdown with the economic forces it has been denouncing and fighting for decades.

On the momentous session of the Pennsylvania Legislature which convenes tomorrow, the eyes of milions of citizens will be focussed.

WE THE PEOPLE proposes to report and review the events that will take place both on the stage and behind the scenes at the State's Capitol

It will follow the course of all important measures as they proceed speedily—or haltingly—from one jurisdiction to another.

WE THE PEOPLE will, without hesitation or fear, place the blame for any delays, sabotage or other attempts to thwart the enactment of a program of progressive legislation. And by like token it will give credit where credit is due.

Commencing with this issue, WE THE PEOPLE will become a weekly, instead of a fortnightly, publication.

Its format has been changed slightly—and two-color rotogravure succeeds brown monotone.

For the convenience of our readers—to carry out our policies of both information and interpretation—the paper has been divided into two sections. The first is the Feature Section; the second is called "Pennsylvania in Review."

The Feature Section will regale Pennsylvanians with stories of their native State.

It will light up shadowy but fascinating corners of Pennsylvania history. It will unfold for you the colorful panorama of the State where American independence was born; where pioneers struggled with the wilderness, and for ideals on which America was founded.

Because the conquest of disease is one thrilling "last frontier" opened to modern man in a crowded world, WE THE PEOPLE will devote part of its feature section to health and medicine. It will strip veils of ignorance from such dread plagues as syphilis; report progress on the health front.

It will devote a page to hunting and fishing—written by one who is an expert in the lore of rod and gun.

Most important of all, the Feature Section will be one in which the editors will speak out their frank opinion—backed by facts—on political, economic and social topics of vital importance to every citizen of the commonwealth. At least one such authoritative article will appear each week.

"Pennsylvania in Review" is the title of the second half of the new weekly.

What did the Governor say to a bootleg miner last week? What railroad line is being considered as the route for a $50,000-000 highway that will bore through nine mountains between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh? What two groups of interests will battle over this proposed route? What are the significant new developments in the field of welfare? What under-currents are to be detected in the new legislature? Who sponsored this bill? Who killed it, and why? What fascinating story lies behind the sudden spurt of orders for beehive coke? How did a New Dealing Secretary of Banking come to the defense of startled Main Line dowagers? How did our Duck Stamp grow from a piece of steel mill scrap and some mill "pickle?" What decision did our State's high court once make concerning a man who is now an escaped convict?

These are the sort of questions alert Pennsylvanians want answered. They are the sort of questions WE THE PEOPLE will answer in "Pennsylvania in Review." It will winnow the chaff from the grain of the week's news. It will be brisk, brief, unbiased.

We hope the new weekly WE THE PEOPLE will become a habit with you. We shall try to make it worth your while to read. And we are enlisted in the liberal cause for the duration of the war.

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1935 1936 1937 1938

GOVERNOR EARLE

½ Way

CHAIRMAN LAWRENCE

TWO YEARS GONE—TWO MORE TO GO—FOR PRESENT STATE DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION

THIS week marks the second anniversary of the arrival of the Democratic party in Harrisburg.

In some quarters this "arrival" is erroneously regarded as marking the end of decades of Republican rule in state governmental affairs and its succession by a Democratic regime.

But it was only the vanguard of the Democratic party that arrived in Harrisburg two years ago this week.

A Democratic governor was sworn in on January 15. This ceremony gave to the Democratic party control only of administrative governmental functions.

Governor Earle's inauguration was preceded by the organization of the House of Representatives by Democrats.

But the Senate, without whose concurrence no new laws could be enacted or old laws repealed, remained staunchly Republican.

And so too did the courts of Pennsylvania, including the Superior and Supreme courts—to say nothing of the Public Service Commission.

So as a matter of fact, of the three branches of government, the Democratic Party actually controlled but one—the administrative. The legislative department of government was deadlocked with the Republicans holding the whip hand. The judicial functions were also in the hands of "safe" Republican judges, appointed or elected in most instances through the power, money and influence of the entrenched corporate interests.

A Democratic governor and a Democratic House of Representatives had been returned victorious at the polls because the voters of this commonwealth wanted the legislative reforms that were promised in the platform adopted by the Democratic State Committee in 1934. Without doubt a Democratic majority in the Senate would also have been chosen were it not for the fact that the terms of only one-half of the membership of the Senate expired that year.

Carrying out its promises to the electorate the Democratic leadership submitted to the 1935 General Assembly legislation designed to translate those platform pledges into law. Practically without exception these measures passed the House only to be sidetracked into the voluminous pigeon-holes of Senate committees.

A few measures, such as the one abolishing the coal and iron police and others providing for direct relief did survive the Senate machine to become law. But generally speaking all efforts to carry out the platform pledges of the 1934 State Committee and additional promises made by Governor Earle and State Chairman David L. Lawrence during the campaign were rendered futile by the Republican Senatorial bloc.

So that the Democratic Party now at the half-way mark, two years since its triumphal entry into Harrisburg, has little to show to the voters of this commonwealth in the way of tangible legislative accomplishment.

But certainly no one can blame the party or its leaders for this record. At the regular and special sessions Governor Earle and Chairman Lawrence fought desperate heart-breaking fights trying to batter down the bomb proof defenses that had been erected by the bloc of die-hard Senators. But to no avail.

This week another regular session of the General Assembly will convene in Harrisburg. And as a result of the November 3 elections it can now be truly said that there is a Democratic administration in control of the State Government—that is, in control of the administrative and legislative branches of government. The judicial branch is still safely Republican.

So that if the Democratic leadership, looking backward two years, can gaze only upon scattered bits of what was once a progressive legislative program, it can with equal certainty turn about and with eager, enthusiastic vision gaze upon a horizon where the sky-line is etched with legislative structures built upon the resurrected platform of 1934.

Now there is nothing to prevent the 1934 platform from being translated into law by the 1937 General Assembly which meets this week.

There is nothing to prevent other pledges given by Governor Earle and Chairman Lawrence in the 1934 campaign and since, from being submitted to the House and Senate in the legislative form carrying with them strong recommendations from the Governor and Chairman Lawrence.

They were promises made to the people of this commonwealth in good faith and the people undoubtedly expect that now, the Democratic Party, maker of those pledges is in position to carry them out, that they will be fulfilled.

WE THE PEOPLE, in order to refresh the minds of lawmakers, leaders and public alike, publishes below in balance sheet form, the legislative debits and credits of the Democratic Party in the State of Pennsylvania during the past two years.

On the one side of the ledger are listed the platform pledges and promises made on the stump by the party candidates.

On the other side of the ledger is given the present status of these promises.

DEMOCRATIC BALANCE SHEET

PLEDGES	REDEEMED OR UNREDEEMED
The 1934 Democratic Platform:	
1. A job for the man who wants to work.	1. Generally speaking, Platform Pledge No. 1 was kept. The State Highway Department alone, as sponsor of Works Progress Administration projects, put thousands of men to work. At one time as many as 142,000 persons were on WPA highway sponsored projects. Other departments also cooperated in providing jobs for thousands.
2. Abolition of child labor.	2. The Reising Bill to provide for the health, safety and welfare of minors by forbidding their employment in certain establishments and occupations and under ages, by restricting their hours of labor and by regulating conditions of employment, passed the House but was killed in the Senate Labor and Industry committee.
3. Social justice through the regulation of the hours of labor, especially for women.	3. The Senate Labor and Industry committe prevented this promise being carried out when they smothered the Brancato Bill, providing for establishment by the Department of Labor and Industry of minimum fair wage standards for women and minors employed in trades and industries in the State, after it had been passed by the House.
4. A minimum wage, fair to both industry and labor.	4. The fourth promise would have been carried out if the Weiss Bill, introduced after the NRA had been declared unconstitutional, had not been stricken from the calendar.
5. Elimination of industrial police and privately paid deputy sheriffs.	5. The Coolahan Bill, abolishing the coal and iron police was passed, but the Harmuth Bill, requiring all deputy sheriffs to be paid by the counties in which they are employed, was killed in the Senate Committee on Labor and Industry after being passed by the House.
6. Absolute right of collective bargaining and unionization of labor.	6. This pledge to labor was carried out in the Weiss Bill and other bills, all of which were slaughtered in committee.
7. Individual economic security through adequate old-age pensions, unemployment reserves, adequate emergency relief, and a stronger and more comprehensive workmen's compensation law.	7. State and federal acts have been amended to provide for economic security through old age pensions, and emergency relief, and at the special session, the Moomaw Bill establishing a system of unemployment compensation, was passed. The only part of this promise unkept is that of adequate workman's compensation. House Bill 1199, a compensation bill, was killed by the Senate.
8. Outlawing of sweat shops.	8. Sweat shop legislation was killed in the House and Senate Committees, particularly the Reising and Brancato Bills, slaughtered in the Senate after being passed by the House.
9. Prompt return to depositors of funds in closed banks.	9. When Luther A. Harr became Secretary of Banking, January 15, 1935, there were 148 State banks and trust companies in liquidation. They had a deposit liability of $226,856,428, and up to January 15, 1935 the depositors had received $92,077,067. Since January 15, 1935, $6,241,587 has been paid out in dividends; six banks have been reorganized and reopened. Through the reorganizations, $6,872,042 in cash dividends, and $547,616 in stock of the new institutions have been made available to depositors.
10. Economy and efficiency in governmental operation; elimination of waste in the collection of state taxes and the modernization of local government in order to reduce taxation.	10. The Senate again prevented the Democratic Party from fulfilling their pledges when the Moomaw-Moran Bill, centralizing the tax collection system, was killed after passing the House. Other bills abolishing the delinquent tax collectors in second class counties, were also killed in the Senate. The Parks Bill, authorizing collection by the treasurer in third class cities as the tax collector, was passed and received the Governor's approval June 21.
11. Consolidation of city and county government of Philadelphia.	11. The Brancato Bill, consolidating city and county government in Philadelphia, was passed in the House, but was killed in the Senate
12. Distribution of the tax burden through equitable real estate assessments and the enactment of a reasonable income tax to be used exclusively for school purposes and to thereby reduce the burden on homes, farms and industry.	12. Several bills designed to carry out this pledge, were killed in both House and Senate committees.
13. A graded inheritance tax, with exemption for small estates.	13. The Cohen bill, providing such a tax, was killed in the Senate finance committee.
14. Abolition of excessive fees, in the collection of all taxes.	14. Like the tenth pledge, this promise was not kept because of the Senate's action in killing the Moomaw-Moran and other bills dealing with tax collection.

DEMOCRATIC BALANCE SHEET (Cont.)

PLEDGES	REDEEMED OR UNREDEEMED
15. Strengthening of the anti-injunction law to conform with Federal statutes.	15. The Dent Bill, limiting the jurisdiction of the courts in issuing restraining orders or temporary or permanent injunctions, was killed in the Senate Committee on State Government.
16. Enactment of a permanent milk control law which will adequately protect both producer and consumer.	16. The Westrick Bill, regulating and controlling the sale of milk, was passed and was upheld by the Supreme Court. Other milk bills were killed in House and Senate committees.
17. Enactment of legislation to bring to an end exploitation of consumers by public utility corporations.	17. All legislation seeking to regulate utilities failed of passage. The only rate reductions are those that have been voluntarily tendered by several utility corporations.
18. A balanced budget through the limitation of expenditures to a normal and reasonable income. The maintenance of the State's credit is imperative.	18. $10,000,000 has been lopped off the biennial state budget expenditures.
19. Honest elections and the necessary revision of our laws to prevent election frauds.	19. Various bills were introduced but were killed in committee.
20. Modernization of the Constitution of 1874 to conform with the conditions of 1934 through a Constitutional Convention.	20. Rejected by the voters at the polls.
Other Promises	**Other Promises**
(A) (By Governor Earle), I propose to curb stream pollution . . . to keep the Game and Fish commissions out of politics . . . its members will have absolute jurisdiction over its employes without any interference from me or any one else.	(A) Little has been done to carry out the promise to "curb stream pollution." Only eight prosecutions, resulting in individual fines of $100, have been conducted in the past two years.. Blame for the inefficient campaign against stream pollution, is charged to the failure of legislation which would have given the administration more power to act. Democratic Senators "ran out" on this measure.
(B) I propose to put utilities in their place . . . the present Public Service Commission, which carries on secret negotiations with utilities, is depriving the public of its lawful right to scrutinize that bargaining . . . I intend to appoint a new Fair Rate Board which shall be devoted to the interest of the consumer, and I believe that the interests of the utility shareholders are the same in the end. If the consumer does not get a fair rate, if the utility does not pay its fair tax, the utilities will ultimately be taken over by the State. I will try to make such a development unnecessary for all time in Pennsylvania by alert, effective utilities control and by a utilities tax untainted by these peculiar exemptions which have added to the burden of the home owner and farmer.	(B) Failure of legislation seeking to regulate utilities, has resulted in the drawing up of a new program, which is now being completed, a spokesman for the Governor said.
(C) Various Democratic speakers promised to purge the courts.	(C) In 1933 a resolution was introduced by John J. Kane, Democratic floor leader from Allegheny county and now chairman of the Allegheny County Board of Commissioners, to impeach Justices Kephart and Schaeffer of the Supreme Court and Judge Baldridge of the Superior Court, after it was found they were on Morgan's preferred list. No subsequent attempts have been made to prosecute charges brought against these judges.

SENATOR WARREN R. ROBERTS
Democratic floor leader in the Senate.

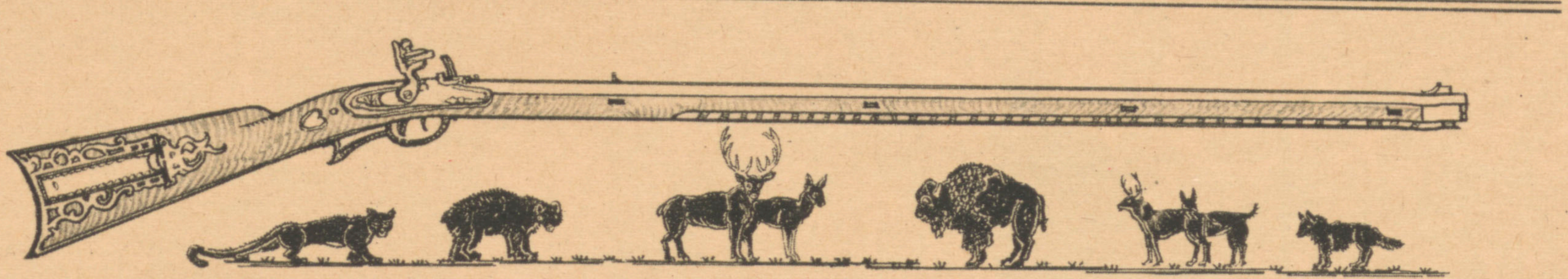
SENATOR HARVEY HUFFMAN
President pro tempore of the Senate.

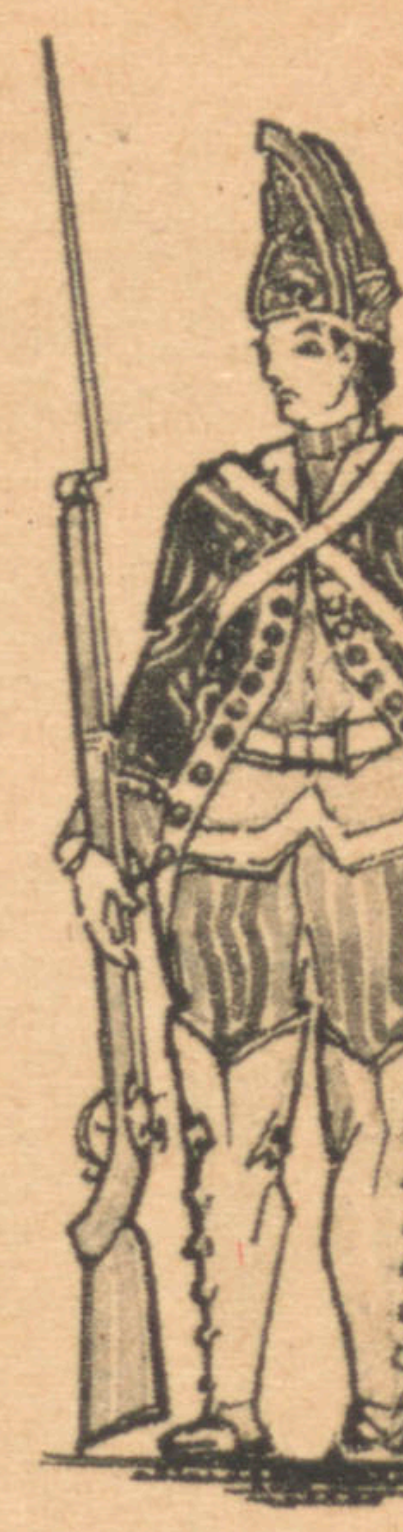
REP. ROY FURMAN
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

REP. HERBERT COHEN
Democratic floor leader in the House.

In the hands of these men rests responsibility for steering through liberal legislation.

THE PENNSYLVANIA RIFLE





Lancaster County Firearm Made Possible Conquest of Frontier, Indians and Red-Coats

THE rifle, in the minds of most Americans, and particularly young Americans, is the most interesting firearm that has ever been made.

Since the days of our forefathers, we have always been riflemen in America—in war, in peace, and in following our sports in forest and afield. The boys of the frontier, later the boys of the rural regions, were brought up with the rifle. As soon as a farm boy could shoulder that graceful weapon, and be taught to use it by his Dad, it was his constant companion in fall and winter when the game was prime, and in summer when the vermin had to be kept away from farm crops and flocks.

Where did the American rifle come from and where was it made? How did it come to be called the Kentucky rifle, after it reached its perfection and was invented by Pennsylvania gunsmiths, and made by them?

The story of the great American rifle is not so well known as it should be. It is one of the most romantic in the whole of American history. The examples that remain of the guns in many museums cannot talk, but if they could they would picture stories of the chase, of breathless escapes and stirring military victory; the triumph of this proud gun's owners over Indians, and white enemies, and game.

The Pennsylvania rifle, one of the most graceful examples of the gunmakers' art ever produced, was a flint lock, single shot, muzzle loading firearm. It was home-designed in individual shops by native craftsmen. Shooting a round leaden ball, it was the most deadly accurate rifle that the world had seen to that time—and after it reached its perfection in 1740, for 100 years it remained in class by itself. In the hands of the backwoods hunter, the frontiersman, and the soldier, this gun is what conquered the North American continent. Generally known as "the Kentucky Rifle," it should have been called "the Pennsylvania Rifle"—for it was developed, perfected and brought to its highest efficiency by American gunsmiths in and around the City of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

But because it was carried by such men as Christopher Gist and Daniel Boone, whose Pennsylvania rifle blazed his way into Kentucky, that "land of milk and honey," in 1770, it got its name of "Kentucky Rifle" instead. Other men such as Burnett, John Kenton, and in the West, Crockett, Carson, Jim Bridger, Jed Smith, Bill Williams and a host of others could not have lived without the long Pennsylvania rifle and their skill in its use.

Space for the story of the Pennsylvania rifle is scarce. But we would like to present, in a condensed manner: first, a picture of what the wilderness was like in the mid-Appalachian district which later became Pennsylvania, and what it contained according to the accounts of the first white men. Second, how important a part the rifle played in this conquest, and how impossible it would have been without it—where the rifle was developed and how it was made. Third, the part it played in the daily life of its owner. And fourth, its role in military affairs—the part it took in obtaining freedom for the colonists and defending them against European invasion. And finally, the rifle in the conquest of the West.

CHAPTER 1—THE GREAT WILDERNESS

The Great Wilderness. One of the most fertile fields for the imagination to visualize today is what the great wilderness was like when the white man fresh from Western Europe saw it. Looking down on Pennsylvania from the air today, one sees the same contours it had then. The ridges and tops of the rugged Alleghenies are wooded still, covered with second-growth timber.

Then the wilderness was covered with a magnificent growth of huge sturdy trees. The first white men who saw and knew this wilderness were, with few exceptions, illiterate, unable to describe what they saw. But in their wake followed others who told of that great wilderness forest whose tone was sombreness and mystery, filled with silence by day and strange, disquieting noises by night. In places the forest opened to meadows, such as that upon which Washington took his stand to build Fort Necessity, or the open glades after which Clearfield County was named.

The trees grouped themselves according to soil and climate. The tall white pine liked the high elevations of the mountain ranges. The hemlock, spruce and cedar preferred the deep valleys, water courses, wet ground. The hard and softwood deciduous trees marched along the ridges and sloping ground, so that those portions of the forest were covered with chestnut, black walnut, and all kinds of oaks, hickory, beech, hazlenut, etc.

And in that forest lurked an amazing variety of game—woods buffalo, elk, many deer, bear, panthers, and scores of varieties of small game. The Indian, a real conservationist, killed what he needed. But when the white man came, he brought a different plan of livelihood. He wanted to cut trails, clear homesteads, raise livestock, build his home, and begin trade and exchange of commodities.

To him game animals and birds, which threatened his crops and his livestock, were a nuisance and a menace. The eastern buffalo went the way of the western species early in the 18th Century. The great eastern elk of Pennsylvania lasted until 1854. The white-tail deer only remains of his family. Of the carnivorous animals—the panther, the wolf, the black bear, wolverine, fox, the fisher cat, mink, sable, otter and muskrat—came the cash crop of the hunter, the trapper and trader. They were soon pushed back to the recesses of the great forest as the settler and farmer came in.

One could buy a turkey for one shilling, or a deer for two shillings, about 50 cents. Up to 1800 and later, the game animals and birds were so destructive of the farmers' crops and fields that the colonists had to organize what has been described as "circle hunts" to get rid of them.

The remote backwoods settlers would agree on a hunt. An agreed location would have a central open space cleared. Around it would be stationed men with rifles and plenty of ammunition, to receive the driven animals. Others formed a circle many miles in diameter, taking their stations at daybreak. At a given signal they began the drive, shouting, shooting firearms, ringing bells, to scare the wild population of the woods ahead of them. Generally from 200 to 250 people took part in these drives.

The annals describe such a hunt on West Mahantango Creek about 1756. A group of buffalo broke through the guards at an early stage of the killing, and several hundred animals escaped. But, according to Black Jack Swartz, leader of the drive, the settlers bagged: 41 panthers; 109 wolves; 114 mountain cats; 17 black bears; 2 elk; 198 deer; 111 buffalo; 3 fishers; 1 otter; 112 foxes; 12 glutton; 3 beaver—and upwards of 500 small animals.

Such was the harvest to be gathered by the hunter, the trapper and the early settler. They needed the best gun they could get. Their livelihood, their very lives, depended on it. Daily they asked gunsmiths for improvements on the gun they used. Then one day appeared a rifle so superior to any previous firearm that it was in a class by itself. This gun for 100 years held the claim to superiority over any other gun made in the world. In fact, it is a question whether its accuracy has ever been surpassed at short range—the Pennsylvania Rifle used by the American rifleman of that day.

In the middle Appalachians at the beginning of the 1700's there had settled many Germans and Huguenots who brought with them the art of rifling the inside of a gun barrel so that the leaden pellet took a spinning motion when discharged. This increased its accuracy far over the smooth-bore musket then in common use. The principle may not have been clear to the early gunsmiths, but it is one known to every boy who has played baseball. When he spins the ball, a little cone of air travels in front, pulling it in the direction of the spin to make a curve. In smooth-bore muskets without rifling the lead ball always had some spin; but its spin usually curved it out of its true path.

The treacherous Indian that shot at Major George Washington on his trip with Christopher Gist to Fort Le Boeuf on French Creek, missed the Major at forty paces—and spared him to history. The safest thing for the target of a smooth bore musket to do was stand still, for the better the aim, the more chance for the bullet to curve.

Not so with the spinning lead ball of the Pennsylvania rifle. Its little cone of air traveled directly in front of it, true in line with the aim of the rifleman.

In another installment will be presented some facts on the invention and development of the Pennsylvania Rifle and the gunsmiths who produced in final perfection the firearm which brought about the conquest of a continent.

PENNSYLVANIA'S MENNONITES SCORN ALL POOR RELIEF AID

Willing to Pay Tax But Their Religion May Cause Them to Refuse Benefits

AMONG the Lancaster County Amish December is "marrying time," for then the harvest is over. After ceremonies, sermons, and prodigious feasting the bridegroom emerges from the house, is seized by the unmarried men, and tossed "over the fence" among the married men. It signifies that he has become a man, that he may grow a beard.

Last month was the signal for a rash of newspaper stories on the quaint customs of the "plain people," a branch of the Mennonites whose religion keeps them from jury duty (since they commit no crime) and from warfare, and who are the best farmers in Pennsylvania. Last month Pennsylvania's Mennonites popped into national headlines when they met to decide whether they should accept benefits under the Social Security Act.

Back in the days when no one worried about unemployment insurance, home relief or WPA, a group of Pennsylvania Mennonites sent a letter to William Penn clarifying certain points. Said the letter:

"We came to Pennsylvania to enjoy freedom of mind and body, expecting no other imposition than that declared by God. As we have been taught to hurt not our neighbors, so do we expect that our neighbors will do us no injury. As we cannot contract debts, we require no law for their recovery.

"If we should be so fortunate as to have indigent neighbors, we shall provide for their wants. The same inclination that tends to the preservation of our children prompts to the care of every member of our flock."

Following their policy enunciated here 218 years ago, Mennonites have had nothing to do with life insurance, accepted no AAA bounties, relief, other outside aid. Hewing to such Biblical dicta as Matthew 26, 11 ("For ye have the poor always with you"), Mennonites have insisted that each congregation provide for its own needy. Last month the Mennonite Board of Missions, representing thousands of Pennsylvania Mennonites, puzzled over a challenging new issue raised by the Federal and State New Deals.

The venerable bishops viewed with alarm the whole social security program, especially its Old Age Insurance and Unemployment Compensation. Should the faithful accept these benefits? To the Social Security Board sped a letter:

"As a people we have no objection in the least to giving to the State an account as provided by law. But we have conscientious scruples in regard to receiving the benefits . . . What we especially plead for at this time is that some provision be made to allow us to pay our dues in regular order, but to exempt us from receiving the benefit."

For three hours one day last month a conference of bishops from 10 counties wrestled with the problem, argued, quoted scripture, finally gave up. Explaining why they postponed a decision, Bishop Noah Landis of Neffsville, their moderator, gave two reasons: (1) They lack sufficient knowledge on how the Act will function; (2) Since benefit payments do not begin until 1938, no hasty decision is required.

Doctrine of the Mennonite Church ordains that no man should receive what he has not toiled for. Said Edgar Hare, Jr., Lancaster County relief director, succinctly describing their relief customs: "This administration receives and accepts applications from Amish and Mennonite persons or families, but relief is not granted for more than a temporary period in urgent cases without our referring the matter to Amish or Mennonite Church authorities . . . In almost every case . . . that function is performed by the church . . . I believe that there are no Mennonite or Amish cases on emergency relief rolls in this county at present . . . I am sure that the number of cases which have been on relief rolls is quite small."

Organized by a meek Netherlander priest named Menno Simons (born 1492), the Mennonites sprang up when a small group of Zurich Swiss left the state church during the wave of reform which swept Europe during the Middle Ages. Mennonite doctrine, crystallized in the Confession of Faith drawn up in Holland in 1632, includes customary evangelical beliefs on the fall, repentance, scriptural authority as against that of the Pope. Mennonites condemn divorce save for adultery, discourage holding public office; they uphold freedom of conscience, separation of church and state, individual responsibility. Mennonites consider self discipline and straight-laced rectitude more important than doctrinal hair-splitting. Their churches are for the most part voluntary family-type in structure.

To embattled Mennonites Quaker Penn's Pennsylvania was a welcome haven. In 1710 a large band under Bishop Hans Herr arrived on the *Mary Hope,* settled in Lancaster County. That October a warrant authorized their purchase of 10,000 acres in the rich Pequea Valley limestone region. During the next 70 years some 100,000 immigrants swept in, became known as "Pennsylvania Dutch."

Industrious Mennonites turned Lancaster County into the garden spot of Pennsylvania. At Lancaster they also established such famous industries as manufacturing rifles (see P. 7), Conestoga wagons and the Tannenberg Pipeorgan, most famous organ of the day.

Mennonites were among the first to oppose slavery. As early as 1688 the Germantown branch of the sect drew up a manifesto, the first public protest in America against slave-holding. Said they: "Those who hold slaves are no better than the Turks . . . Here there is liberty of conscience which is right and reasonable, here ought to be likewise liberty of ye body . . . In Europe there are many oppressed for conscience sacke: and here there are those oppressed which are of black Colour."

The first school in Lancaster County was started by Mennonites in 1711, with bible-teaching on Sundays and reading and writing on weekdays, in accordance with Menno Simons' decree: "Insist upon and require the children to learn to read and do other necessary things and proper work suited to their years and persons."

Lancaster's first iron works started in 1726 at the time famed visitor Benjamin Franklin was agitating the Lancastrian "plain people" to introduce silk-worms on their mulberry trees.

Today Lancaster County, a monument to their thrift and industry, has some 200,000 inhabitants in 941 square miles. Its industrial products are worth $171,000,000, its agricultural products $38,000,000.

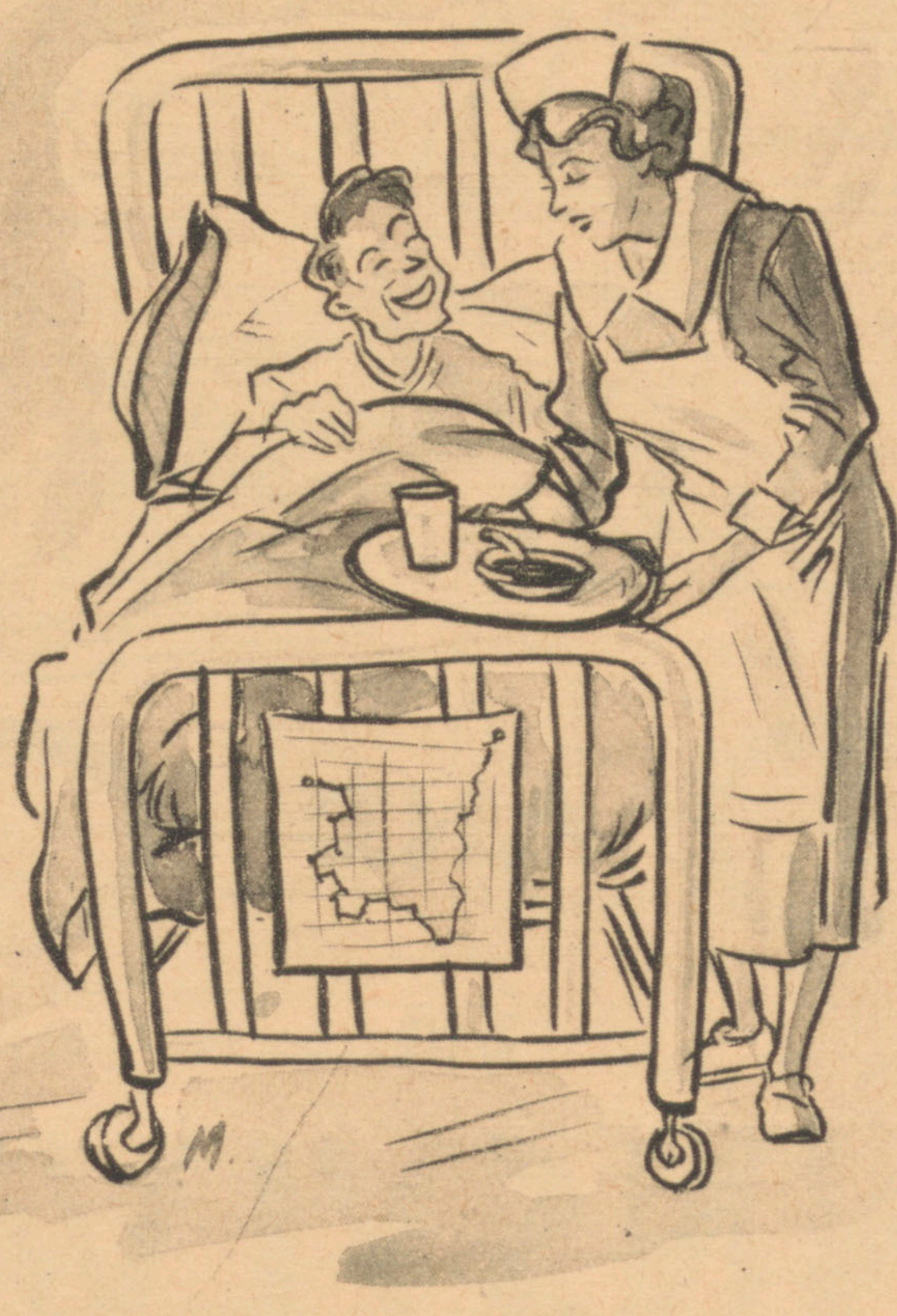
Mennonites inter-marry, adhere to their Pennsylvania Dutch tongue. Their exclusiveness has made them bulwarks of conservatism. They cling to their old-style dress, eschewing adornment. Most of the women still wear the cape and the quaint Mennonite bonnet.

The 100,000-odd members of the sect in America are split into a dozen different bodies, of which the "Old," or Mennonite Church is the largest (40,000). Second in size in the General Conference Mennonite Church (20,000), which strives for Mennonite unity. The Old Order Amish (8,600) still sing hymns of the 1571 *Ausbund* to tunes yet unpublished.

The County Church supports, in addition to its needy members, foreign missions (Dhamtare, India), home missions, an orphanage, and an Old Peoples Home near Lancaster. Its Board of Missions and Charities is conscientious, hardworking.

Finest tribute paid to Mennonites was by Dr. Benjamin Rush, signer of the Declaration of Independence, who said in his *Manners of the German Inhabitants of Pennsylvania:* "Perhaps those German sects of Christians who refuse to bear arms for the shedding of human blood may be preserved by Divine Providence as the center of a circle which shall gradually embrace all nations of the earth in a perpetual treaty of friendship and peace."

3 Weeks In Bed..



3 Cents Per Day..

SICKNESS BUGABOO DISPELLED BY ALLEGHENY COUNTY GROUP HOSPITAL PLAN

MAN'S greatest bugaboo has ever been sickness and accident. They mean emergency expenditures ranging from $2 to $200, sometimes more. In New York this bugaboo has been cast out by group hospitalization, by which, for three cents a day, hospital care can be given to subscribers. Last year, 174 hospitals and 129,716 prospective patients belonged to the Associated Hospital Service of New York.

In Allegheny County last week, the 29 hospitals and the Allegheny County Medical Society were studying a similar plan. Next month will come their decision as to whether it will be offered the working man and his family, giving him, his wife and children a guarantee of three weeks' hospitalization each year for an annual total payment of $24.

Group hospitalization seems the most successful of hundreds of schemes being tried out whereby patients, doctors and hospitals can get together for their mutual benefit. To equalize risks, subscribers are admitted in blocks of 10 or more from various industrial, manufacturing, commercial and other businesses. After employes join they may bring in their wives and children. They pay the same subscription rate for their spouses and a third of their combined rates for children under 19.

For their yearly payments members get up to 21 days bed in semi-private rooms, ordinary nursing care, medicines, anasthesia and essential laboratory examinations, including X-ray. Patients pay their doctors separately. Choice of physicion or surgeon rests with the subscriber.

Pittsburgh's plan proposes that if a member has an accident or is stricken with sudden illness anywhere in the United States or Canada, outside the Allegheny County area and is taken to a local hospital, the organization would foot the bill.

New York gives an example of one of the greatest boons of the plan. All it cost Mrs. Mollie H. Laibson of Brooklyn to bear her baby in a first class Brooklyn hospital was $8.50. Fathers and mothers know that something like $150 or $200 would have been required for the hospital delivery room and semi-private room she used.

Allegheny County would have this a part of its plan, too. Mothers, to benefit, would be required to have been members for 12 months preceding the date of delivery—a cost to her of less than $9. She will get in Allegheny County probably usual delivery confinement, free lodging and care for her infant.

All of Pennsylvania will watch the success of the plan being fostered by the 29 Allegheny County hospitals. Pennsylvania has been slow to see the advantages of group hospitalization; but 1,600 Dallas school teachers paid $6 a year and proved the plan would work. Aside from New York, other important cities to follow suit were San Antonio, Houston, New Orleans, Memphis, Sacramento, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Cleveland, Rochester, Washington, Durham, and Newark, N. J.

Adoption of Pittsburgh's plan by the individual hospitals is expected near the first of the year. With its adoption an industrial committee will be named to take charge of enrolling membership among the hundreds of thousands of workers of the county.

Sponsor of Pittsburgh's 3-cents-a-day plan was the new Hospital Council, organized by Allegheny County's 25 voluntary hospitals and four public hospitals last month to act as a clearing house and a general headquarters through which hospitals can take concerted action on their common problems. Its non-salaried president is wealthy brickmaker Ralph Warner Harbison (Harbison-Walker Refractories Co.), who is also payless board-chairman of Pittsburgh's Presbyterian Hospital.

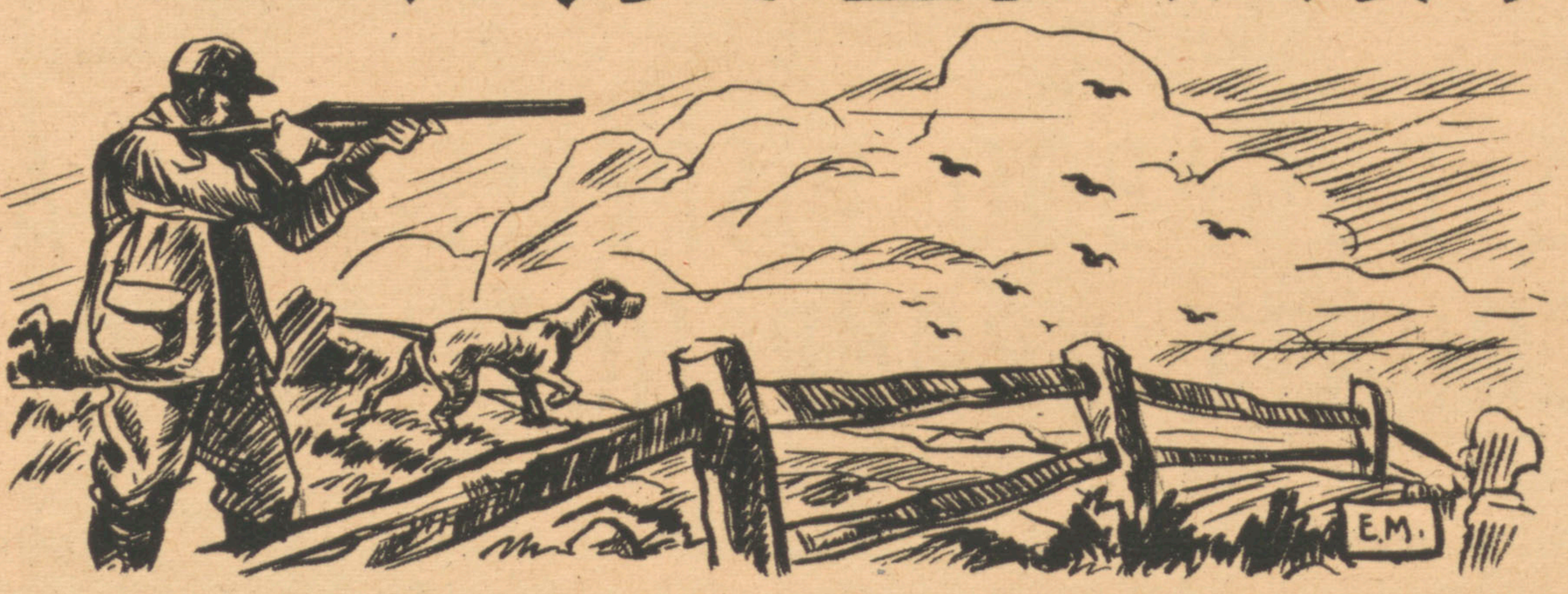
Other leaders in the committee which formulated the plan are H. Lee Mason, Jr., executive chairman of Allegheny General Hospital's board, who headed the plan committee; Francis A. Keating of Children's Hospital; Dr. Sidney A. Chalfant, president of the Allegheny County Medical Society; Dr. Samuel A. Haythorn, chairman of the Allegheny County Medical Society; Abraham Oseroff, director of Montefiore Hospitals and secretary of the Hospital Council; James F. Keenan, Pittsburgh Hospital; J. E. Roth, South Side Hospital; Leo G. Griffith, St. Francis Hospital; James E. MacCloskey, Jr., Homeopathic Hospital, and Henry G. Wasson, West Penn Hospital.

Any general hospital case will be treated under the Pittsburgh plan. In other cities some plans exclude maternity cases and cases in which persons are alcoholics, or are afflicted with mental, venereal or quarantinable diseases.

Economics of the plan are explained under the New York service. Experience shows employed persons and their families are healthier than the rest of the population and their yearly payments provide more than enough money to pay the hospital bills of the entire group. New York's 129,716 members paid $1,050,700 in fees in 1936.

An advisory group headed by John Kane, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners is being formed to expedite the plan. It will be made up of the president of each hospital, or his delegate; chairman of the medical staff of each hospital; each hospital superintendent and representatives of the county poor board, health committee of city council, Public Health Nursing Association, Community Fund, General Health Council, Allegheny County Medical Society, the Allegheny County Odontological Society; Sixth District Nursing Association, Department of Public Health, Department of Public Welfare, and the Federation of Social Agencies.

With ROD AND GUN in PENNSYLVANIA



DEBITS AND CREDITS OF PENNSYLVANIA'S LAST GAME SEASON

There is no group of hunters in the world who are more versatile or more scientific in bagging game than those who roam Penn's fields and woods. Their heritage is a country with food and cover for many kinds of game. Down through the years equipment, technique and practical knowledge have improved.

However, the story is not entirely one of progress. For difficulties, very hard to surmount, have arisen. Today there are a great many more hunters afield than there were several generations ago. Each decade sees more and more people turning to hunting for their recreation. The increasing popularity of the sport has resulted in many more hunters killing game, so that the demand for it now exceeds the natural supply.

Strange as it may seem, this decrease of the game has developed greater hunters. The more difficult the game is to find and to shoot, the more scientific are the methods required in its killing. Furthermore, game in heavily hunted areas becomes very wily. Compare Canadian deer and grouse with those found in this State. The North Country deer will stand in the open and calmly watch a man; and those northern grouse hop into trees when flushed. Picture, if you will, native game acting that way.

Markmanship has suffered, though, for Nimrod of today does not have as much opportunity to shoot at small game as his father enjoyed; not only because there are not as many rabbits, squirrels and birds today, but also because present gunning seasons are shorter. If it were not for the mechanical devices, traps and clay birds, there would be very few great shots with the scattergun. To be proficient in this field, practice is essential.

But the big game hunter has a greater opportunity to shoot a buck than either his father or his grandfather had. His chance of bagging a black bear, the prize trophy of the State, is not too remote. There is now a separate season on bear which precedes the deer season. In the past our two large game animals have been hunted at the same time, and many a bear that was jumped met his doom by running blindly into deer hunters. The present arrangement will save many a bear; but at the same time bruin will furnish more sport for the hunters, as well as a longer hunting season. Under the new plan bear should increase in numbers as time goes on.

Ruffed Grouse
A closed season at a cycle's worst low?

Often we hear old timers relate interesting tales about the large number of rabbits and squirrels they once could shoot, and of the great flights of migrating woodcock, ducks and geese. Many a time they had to stop hunting because if they shot any more game they could not carry it home.

As the hunting fraternity grew, the decrease in the supply of game was alarmingly rapid. Something had to be done or some of our game, like the wild pigeon, would be exterminated. The State rose to the occasion. A Game Commission was created and funds were appropriated to it by State Legislature. Experienced sportsmen advocated certain seasons and limits which duly became laws. From the time the Game Commission was created in 1895, until 1913, funds were annually appropriated by the Legislature from the General Fund. These appropriations were inadequate. In 1913 the State appropriation was $97,500, the largest ever made. But the following year, when the Commission received the entire license fee from Pennsylvania hunters, the amount totaled $282,981.56. Since that time sportsmen have benefited by, and received all the money they paid for licenses.

But politicians have continually tried to gain control of this income by placing it in the General Fund, and numerous bills to that effect have been introduced. Time & time again this has been blocked by vigorous action on the part of the Board of Game Commissioners and Pennsylvania sportsmen. Probably this battle will be waged in the future. It is important that the sportsmen become highly organized so they may be able to fight to retain the entire income from hunting licenses and keep the Game Commission on an self-supporting basis. Today there are more that 1,000 sportsmen's associations throughout the State practicing conservation and ready to defend their rights.

The topography of Penn's woods has changed tremendously since the time of the Indian. Perhaps our greatest sylvan catastrophe was the chestnut blight. Monarchs of the forest slowly died; today their remains look like great grey ghosts. The chestnut was one of the chief diets of the turkey, bear, deer, and grouse; now it is gone, probably never to return. The grim reaper had made inroads into our forests, and in his path of destruction were charred stumps, dead strippings, blighted trees, and dead game. But nature started to rebuild. In place of the mighty trees grew scrub oak, beech, laurel, grape vines and other dense cover. This was the formation of our truly great deer, bear and grouse country.

Now once again, as hunters know, catastrophe has struck our Pennsylvania game. The cold, stormy early winter months of 1936 wiped out more game than hunters could destroy in many seasons. The heaviest snowfall recorded buried the food supply so deep that much of it was out of reach of the game. Predators such as hawks and foxes had no trouble catching the weakened game, unable to escape and easily seen in the bleak fields and woods. Record-breaking low temperatures froze debilated quail, grouse, squirrels and deer. Even when balmy days approached it was not all over. Some of the lowland game was caught in the floods and drowned. The resultant effect was the most disappointing hunting season ever experienced by Pennsylvanians. But even though game was scarce, ardent hunters enjoyed going out in quest of it, just as they always will. The problem which now faces the sportsman and his Game Commission is one of rehabilitation.

It is most uncertain when grouse will once again be plentiful throughout the mountainous sections of the State, or when fields will abound with quail. The supply of grouse has always run in cycles; it is now at a new low. In order to have just fair quail hunting in Pennsylvania there must be a series of mild winters and good breeding seasons such as we experienced from about 1928 to '35. Generally speaking, the northern limit for quail is a line drawn through Central Pennsylvania. The rabbit supply must be built up; the State is stocking them heavily.

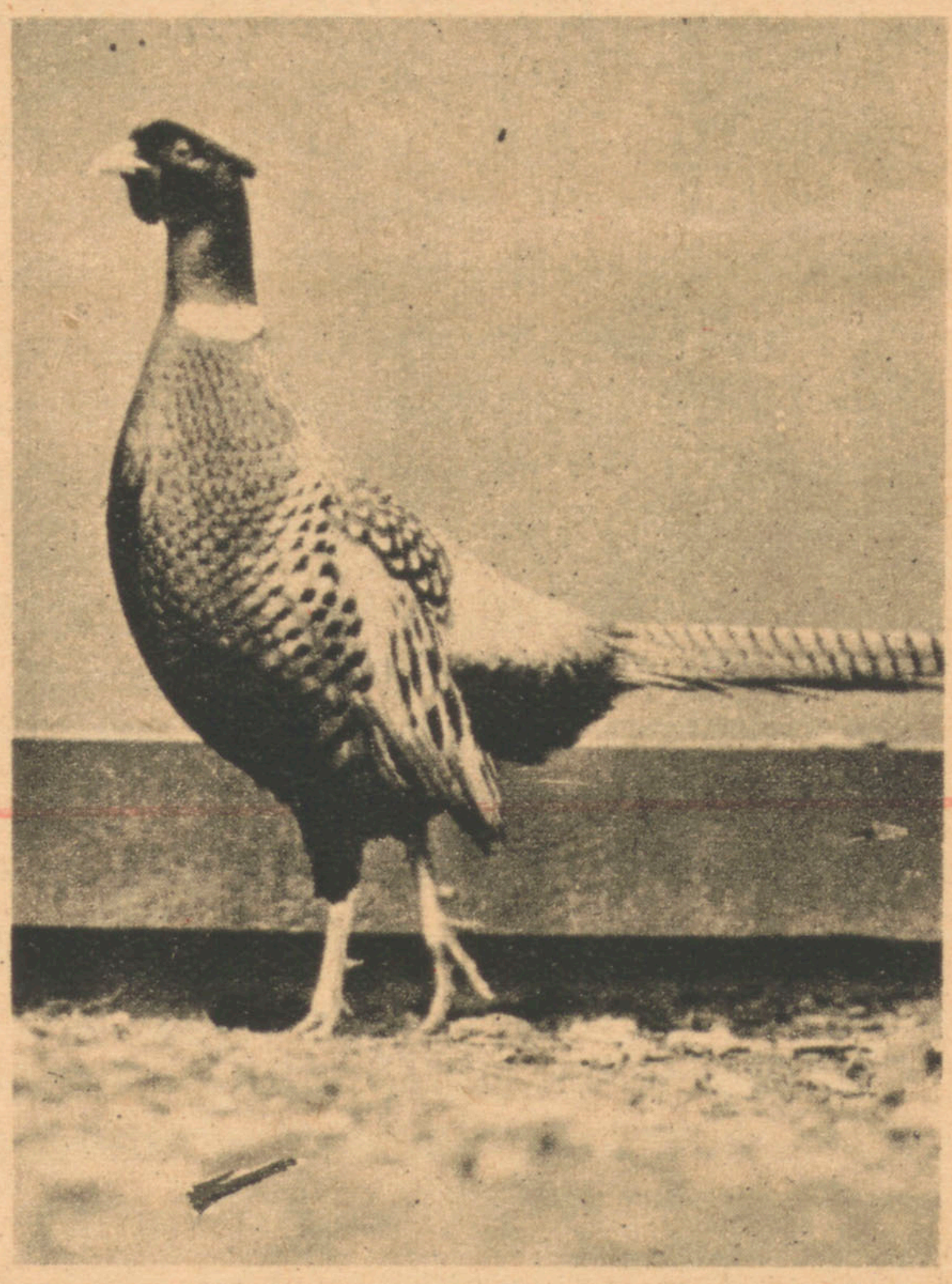
CLOSED SEASON ON QUAIL AND GROUSE TO BE CONSIDERED

The redeeming feature of the past season was the sport furnished by our introduced Oriental friend, the ringneck pheasant. These prolific breeders, hardy fowl and caring parents, are here to stay. It is true they do not hold well for dogs, and they do not have the zip and boom of quail and grouse. Their flight may be compared with the movement of a freight train; they are slow but hard to stop, and with it all they are noisy. Two fine cock birds fill up the bag of any man; and where is the epicure who would turn up his nose at roast pheasant? To say the least, ringnecks are far, far better than little or nothing at all. During the past season they gained the respect of many.

It would be no surprise to alert Pennsylvania sportsmen if the Game Commission declares a closed season on quail and grouse next year. Such action will no doubt be considered seriously by the commission, for a few more such winters could no doubt extinguish our quail and grouse supply—something no sportsman wants. The birds now need a chance to make a comeback from their last winter.

Never again will there be such a shortage of game, for sportsmen have learned how to care for it in winter. The crusade against predators is being continuously intensified. The State is carrying on an intelligent and progressive program to stock and protect game, and cooperation is coming from organized sportsmen.

One thing is certain. Better days lie ahead for Nimrod.



Ringneck Pheasant
He was a redeeming feature of a disappointing season.

“PENNSYLVANIA IN REVIEW”

THE GOVERNOR

Holiday Week's Work

“Would you rather work for a coal company than dig bootleg?” was a question Governor George H. Earle asked often during his 3-day pre-Christmas tour of the hard coal regions. Almost to a man miners digging in unsafe botleg shafts answered “Yes.”

With a first hand knowledge of the district which harbors Pennsylvania's most complicated economic-sociological problem, Governor Earle came back to Harrisburg Christmas Eve determined to appoint a commission to study it, make legislative recommendations. Then, with a sense of work well done, he indulged in these holiday activities before swinging back to work:

Gave his auburn-haired wife, Mrs. Huberta Potter Earle, a gold pin with the seal of Pennsylvania encircled with red, white & blue stones.

Received from her a chess set from Labrador, the pawns carved in walrus ivory; also cuff links and a tie clasp with miniatures of the sailfish the Governor caught off Florida after election.

After an old-fashioned home Christmas the Governor deserted his family for a week-end of gunning at his Maryland lodge. Monday he flew back to Harrisburg. At his desk bright and early Tuesday morning he welcomed eight new members of his official family.

Sworn in were: Unemployment Compensation Board members Robert L. Myers, Jr. (formerly the Governor's secretary), James J. McDevitt and George B. Prindible (see Page 16); ex-newshawk, Edward W. Prendergast as Governor's secretary (see Page 21); Mrs. Earle as a member of the Muncy Industrial Home for Girls board; Arthur H. Howe, Jr. as State budget secretary; Congressman J. Twing Brooks as Liquor Board member; and Mrs. A. Mitchell Palmer, widow of the former U. S. Attorney General, as member of the Stote Board of Motion Picture Censors.

POLITICS

GOP Chairman Fine?

A weighty Republican problem has been finding someone to replace inept Dauphin County Insurance-man M. Harvey Taylor as State chairman. Last week the decision of ailing, pain-wracked Judge Clarence B. Coughlin of Luzerne County to seek re-election this year placed a likely candidate before the GOP State committee.

That candidate is Luzerne County's politically despotic Judge John Sidney Fine, whose term on the bench also ends in 1937.

Political dopesters saw Fine's first “feeler” in the cautious intimations he has recently made, that he cannot run again as a candidate with his former law partner and associate for the past 15 years.

Judge Fine's opponents see in his decision a shrewd fear to face the rejuvenated Democratic Party which cracked his machine open in the last election. Offers from Republican leaders to take the $15,000-a-year chairmanship would solve that politically-minded judge's problem. And should Fine succeed to the chairmanship, it will finally spotlight Oilman Joseph N. Pew (Sun Oil Co.), Pennsylvania's No. 1 Roosevelt-hater and new-come GOP angel, in the role he has recently sought—boss Republican of Pennsylvania. Few closer marriages of cold political acumen and cold cash could be imagined.

It was to Pew that Fine “sold” Attorney Frank Pinola of Luzerne County as candidate for State Treasurer last November. (Hard to check are rumors that Fine deliberately sent Pinola into this lost cause to eliminate him from the judicial race this fall.) As for Pew, it is still uncertain whether he desires to add the title of Governor or Senator to his millions. But it is certain that if Pew pays the piper he will call the tune. Thus the coupling of Fine and Pew should produce an interesting chapter in Pennsylvania's political history.

Trucker Gormley

Prepared to fight the same battle over the route . . .

Until lately Judge Fine's political life has been tied in with two-time Governor Gifford Pinchot's. Pinchot appointed Fine to the bench. Two of Fine's adept handymen were attached to Pinchot's staff—Ambrose Langan, mayor of Pittston, as “economic advisor,” Morgan Bird as Mrs. Pinchot's “investigator.” It was only after Pinchot had given Governor Landon his doubtful approval that Fine's organization went down the line for the Man from Kansas.

Should Judge Fine become GOP State Chairman he will bring to the job a complete mastery of the type of organization that whipped even Luzerne County school teachers “into line” through the simple expedient of forcing them—at job's point—to declare themselves illiterate so that Fine henchmen could “assist” them at the polls. A blissful vision indeed to nerve-shattered Republicans is Pew on the cash box and Fine at front counter—that masterful combination of money and wardheel politics which ran the State in the booming days of Boss Boies Penrose.

HIGHWAYS

All-Weather Highway

Sitting in his roomy office last week, Secretary of Highways Warren S. Van Dyke could look over his past year's work and find it good. He had established a new type of rural road, the stabilized highway. His department was relieving local tax payers by taking over millions of dollars of work on local roads and bridges.

All these might bring him lasting fame. And the one project of all which might be the most likely to bring him lasting fame had begun to take form on drafting boards. The project is the proposed All-Weather Highway, whose route had been surveyed under his direction and with WPA aid. To run between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh, the All-Weather Highway would use the route of William H. Vanderbilt's South Penn Railroad, using the nine tunnels which that doughty captain of industry started driving through Pennsylvania's mountains 50 years ago as a compettitive threat to the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Railroad's Clement

. . . that the Pennsylvania R. R. squelched 50 years ago

The Pennsylvania Railroad, whose meandering 245-mile route from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh was menaced by the proposed South Penn Railroad's shorter 215-mile route, managed to kill off the South Penn after it had been under construction a year and a half. By an ironic circumstance, the group which today most strongly backs the proposed All-Weather Highway over the South Penn line is the Pennsylvania's newest and youngest competitor—the potent new Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association.

Midway through 1934 the then 4-year-old Motor Truck Association began laying down a barrage of pamphlets over the State, boosting the new highway. The Association's big, genial, bespectacled general manager, W. A. Sutherland, began making calls on Senators and Representatives from his office in Harrisburg's Telegraph Building. It's president, Harry L. Gormley of New Castle's Keystone-Lawrence Transfer Co., began laying plans.

In 1935 Representative Clifford Patterson of Monongahela City introduced a resolution in the House for a committee to investigate possibilities of an All-Weather Highway along the South Penn route. Early in 1936 the Works Progress Administration put up $65,000 for wages, and the State contributed $50,000 more for materials for surveying the route. Headman on this job is the Highways Department's Chief Engineer H. H. Temple.

Thus once more the Pennsylvania Railroad and a rival join combat over the route between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh—which in essence means the route between the East Coast and the Middle West. Once more the battleground is that rugged, scarred piece of central Pennsylvania, through which the Appalachian Mountains march from the Canadian border to Georgia, thrusting the same huge, indifferent shoulders to man's progress that they have since the first white settlers began moving West. But this time the Pennsylvania meets another rival. It battles a growing young business, today in the same stage as the Pennsylvania was in its youth. That business is the motor trucking business. Its trade association is the—

Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association. As early as 1901, when impudent urchins and irate farmers were still shouting “Hire a horse!” Pittsburgh had its truckers' organization. By 1911 more conservative Philadelphia had one too. By 1930 truckers, irked by legislative restraints, bent on betering the conditions of their industry, which last year paid some $10,000,000 in license fees, and which pays about $16,000,000 of the $35,000,000 gas taxes paid in the State, organized into a State-wide asociation with headquarters in Harrisburg. Trucks carry some 8 percent of city-to-city traffic in the nation today. A good share of this is carried by Pennsylvania trucks, of which 125,000 trucks running an average of 30,000 miles each per year, are owned by the 7000 members of the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Asociation.

Pennsylvania truckers have long been irked by some peculiar restraints on their business. Until recently, no franchise was granted to run trucks between Pittsburgh and Erie—a restriction lifted by the Public Service Commission after efforts of its counsel, Richard J. Beamish. But to this day no line can get a franchise between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia—one of the most valuable trucking hauls on the State. And the Commission has signified that so far as it is concerned, no franchise shall be granted between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

But in the past few years the growing young Truck Association has begun to try its fledgling wings. Aided by Oilman Joseph N. Pew (Sun Oil), it stopped a 1935 legislative proposal prohibiting trucks from the highways on Sunday. It has shaped other truck legislation closer to its heart's desire. On Capitol Hill the Truck Association has begun to be known as one of the most vigorous of the lobbies. Meantime the Pennsylvania Railroad,

(Continued on Page 14. For a map showing the proposed route, see Pages 12 and 13.)

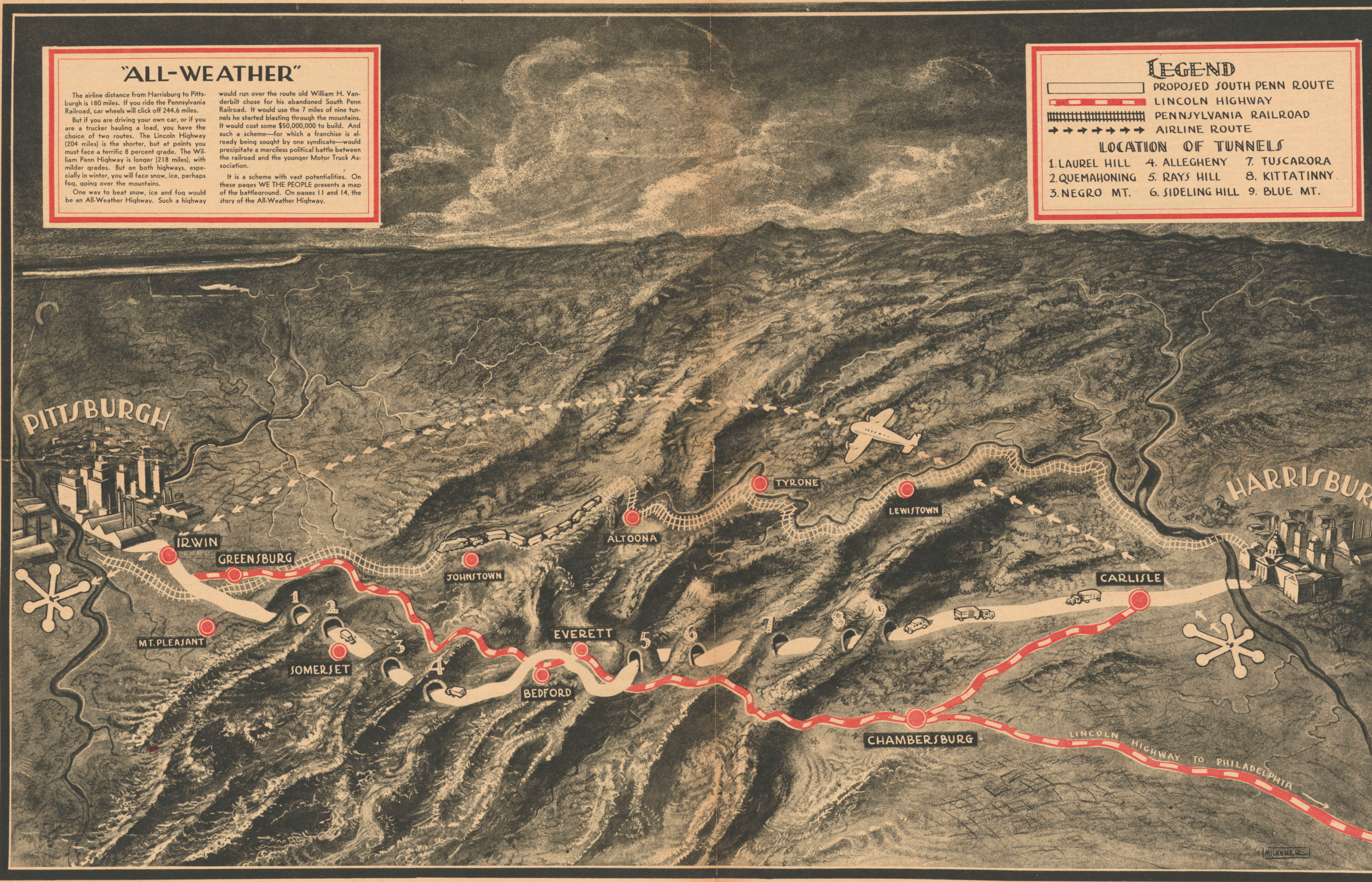
"ALL-WEATHER"

The airline distance from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh is 180 miles. If you ride the Pennsylvania Railroad, car wheels will click off 244.6 miles.

But if you are driving your own car, or if you are a trucker hauling a load, you have the choice of two routes. The Lincoln Highway (204 miles) is the shorter, but at points you must face a terrific 8 percent grade. The William Penn Highway is longer (218 miles), with milder grades. But on both highways, especially in winter, you will face snow, ice, perhaps fog, going over the mountains.

One way to beat snow, ice and fog would be an All-Weather Highway. Such a highway would run over the route old William H. Vanderbilt chose for his abandoned South Penn Railroad. It would use the 7 miles of nine tunnels he started blasting through the mountains. It would cost some $50,000,000 to build. And such a scheme—for which a franchise is already being sought by one syndicate—would precipitate a merciless political battle between the railroad and the younger Motor Truck Association.

It is a scheme with vast potentialities. On these pages WE THE PEOPLE presents a map of the battleground. On pages 11 and 14, the story of the All-Weather Highway.



which under General William Wallace Atterbury's political command could ask just about what it wanted of Legislature, has been declared "out of politics" by its new President Martin Withington Clement. Out indeed, in one practical sense, is the Pennsylvania. For the road that used to be able to swing any number of legislative votes, has in the past few sessions been unable to "deliver" any Senator.

Currently truckers who want to run from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia achieve that outlawed circuit by such devious means as first transporting their load across a convenient state line, this beating the Public Service Commission's jurisdiction by going into interstate traffic. But if an All-Weather Highway is constructed; if the tunnels along the highway are tolled until their cost is paid—if all these things are done, it will practically force the State to grant a franchise to gain the valuable truck traffic tolls through the tunnels. And the present situation, truckers vs. Pennsylvania RR., boils down to the same battle over the same route, 50 years ago, between the—

Pennsylvania and South Penn Railroads. Proudly calling itself the "Standard Railroad of the World," the Pennsylvania is an institution which has always been an artery through which the State's economic life blood flowed. Every Penna. RR. director must be a Pennsylvania resident. The road owns 36 percent of all the railroad route mileage within the State, and the book value of its road and equipment within the State exceeds a billion dollars. On its main line from New York to Pittsburgh, Interstate Commerce Commissioners have placed values of from $500,000 to $750,000 per mile.

Yet when this road was founded, it had to struggle with legislators who thought canals more important. John Stevens, who in 1815 got the first U. S. railroad charter granted (from New Brunswick to Trenton, N. J.), and who dreamed the Pennsylvania, died a disappointed old man, running a hand-built locomotive around his Hoboken estate. In 1824 Legislature appropriated money, and in 1834 was opened the 80-mile line from Philadelphia to Columbia which Stevens first advocated in 1821. In 1846 the Pennsylvania, with money raised by door-to-dor canvass, began building its road from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh; for the privilege, paying a March-to-December tonnage tax (the State figured that the winter months were the only ones during which it would take business from the canals). In 1857 the State sold its Philadelphia-Columbia line to the Pennsylvania. Within the next year, the Pennsylvania had extended itself into Chicago—and the great days of railroading were one.

A staunch competitor of the Pennsylvania was that shrewd old magnate, William H. Vanderbilt, who controlled the New York Central. His wily eye, roving over the Pennsylvania map, detected a weak point in his adversary's armor. When John Edgar Thomson first laid out the Pennsylvania line, he followed the path of least resistance through the mountains, the Juniata River watercourse. This meant that the Pennsylvania bent in a giant elbow from Harrisburg northward into central Pennsylvania. What this elbow lost in distance, it made up in easy grades.

In Pennsylvania during the 1860's was a slumbering company known as the Southern Pennsylvania Railroad, which had acquired a charter to run through the southern counties. It was one of the all-inclusive charters the young State granted freely. But when the new Constitution was written in 1873, these old charters suddenly became valuable. None like them could be had thereafter. And when a New Yorker who had some money invested made a survey of its chartered route in 1880, the shrewd Vanderbilt eye immediately fell upon it. He immediately formed a $15,000,000 syndicate, the American Construction Company, to build the road, and subscribed $5,000,000. Another $1,000,000 came from W. H. and John D. Rockefeller. In 1882 the company began its ambitious steps to blast nine tunnels through the mountains, cutting a short line to Pittsburgh.

BLUE MT. — INSIDE
Through tunnels like this 4,000 cars a day?

BLUE MT. — OUTSIDE
Debris has closed the mouth around solid masonry.

After Vanderbilt's group had spent some $5,600,000, on J. P. Morgans' intervention he reached an agreement to sell out to the Pennsylvania Railroad—over the loud objections of stockholder David Hostetter, the fabulous, bearded, millionaire proprietor of Hostetter's Bitters. The sale was never made, for the Commonwealth stepped in with a permanent injunction. The incomplete road passed from hand to hand, until finally control rested with the Baltimore & Ohio. And there the scheme languishished, its only reminder some incomplete tunnels over whose mouth debris piled high; some bridge piers across the Susquehanna Riber near Harrisburg; and an old roadbed.

All-Weather Highway. From Harrisburg to Pittsburgh there are two main routes. Like two sides of a loop of string, they bow north and south, converging at each end on Harrisburg and Pittsburgh. The William Penn (22), roughly approximates the northward jog of the Pennsylvania Railroad along the Juniata River valley. Bow the other loop south and you would have the Lincoln (30) running through Bedford and Chambersburg. Every day between 3500 and 4000 vehicles each way (16 percent trucks) take the Lincoln's heady mountain trail. At the same time from 2000 to 2200 will be coming over the William Penn; because its grades are less precipitous, 24 percent of these will be trucks.

There is little more than 14 miles difference between the two roads. The Lincoln, more modern, has some grades of from 7 to 8 percent. Both offer bad going in winter time.

But if you had the old South Penn route, with its tunnels already partly dug—tunnels which cut from 400 to 900 feet off such mountains as Kittatinny, Sideling Hill, and Tuscarora—and if you had some $50,000,000 to build it, you could construct an all-weather highway which missed mountain-top snow and ice, and fog, and which led through up-thrust south central Pennsylvania with gentle 3 percent grades. That "if" has been the basis for Chief Engineer Temple and Supervising Engineer Stone's WPA-aided survey.

If you drew a line on a slight southwest slant from Harisburg, you would have the approximate course of the South Penn. From Carlisle it would run past Newville, past Newburg, through Burnt Cabins to Everett, where, temporarily consorting with the Lincoln, it would loop south of it through Mann's Choice, Somerset, then northwest to Irwin, where it joins the Lincoln again.

Tunnels. Notice that the route passes through no large town save Somerset, though it comes close to Bedford. But the important thing along the way would be the nine tunnels. East from Harrisburg they are: Blue Mountain (4240 ft.; 3063 finished by the South Penn Railroad); Kittatinny (4620 ft.; 4057 finished); Tuscarora (5225 ft.; 3756 finished); Sideling Hill (6662 ft.; 3276 finished); Rays' Hill (3534 ft.; 2512 finished); Allegheny (5919 ft.; 3946 dug); Negro Mountain (1100 ft.; 734 completed); Quemahoning (700ft.; 1285 completed).

Last month 10 survey parties of 55 men, all but four of whom are WPA engineers (at one time there were 70 men in the field), had surveyed the entire route, all but 18½ miles of which follows the South Penn. They had staked out 150 miles of transit line on the old route. They had taken topography and cross sections for 137 miles. They had established bench marks along 149 miles, and taken profiles for 145 miles. They had thoroughly explored the old tunnels, which despite legends, are in extremely good shape. Debris had covered some entrances, damming up ground water inside. But the walls blasted with tremendous effort through solid rock, were perfectly sound. From their reports it is possible to envisage the All-Weather Highway which might be.

Imagine a modern 60-ft. 4-lane highway. It would have a 4-ft. curb down the center, planted with grass or bushes. At one stretch outside Carlisle it would run on a straight 17-mile tangent, without a curve. Its maximum curvature would be 6 degrees—or a curve with a 1000-ft. radius, against much shorter curves on the other roads. Its 60-ft. width would permit more efficient snow removal. And though its length would be almost exactly that of the Lincoln (204 mi.), it would offer something that makes the Motor Truck Association's mouth water—driving speed and driving ease. Truckers declare it would cut the distance between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia by five or six hours. That it would save in drivers' wages at least $5. And for that truckers have expressed their willingness to pay a $5 toll through the tunnels.

Cost. To build such a highway would be one of the major undertakings in the history of the State. A rough estimate of the cost runs to some $50,000,000, divided thus:

Right of way	$2,000,000
Grading (60,000 yards per mile for 170 miles)	5,100,000
4-way concrete slap, 40 feet wide	10,200,000
37,389 feet of tunnel work	$14,000,000
8 major bridges and viaducts	2,000,000
Masonry, small bridges, overhead structures, conduits	2,000,000
Interest during construction	3,000,000
Guard rails, fences, etc.	1,000,000
Ventilation	1,000,000
Engineering and financing	7,000,000

Battle. Such are the rough estimates of what such an All-Weather Highway would be like, of what it would cost. Political-wise heads can also estimate the battle which will be waged before such an undertaking will be either accepted or rejected.

On one side would be the mighty Pennsylvania system, which might well object that the highway would be a serious competitive threat to it and its stockholders, many of them widows and estates. Some 80,0000 Pennsylvanians own 5,248,000 shares worth $250,000,000. Individual Pennsylvanians own $100,000,000 of bonds, while institutions, banks, etc., own $190,000,000 more. With the railroad would be aligned residents along the William Penn and Lincoln Highways, whose values and business might be theatened.

On the other would be the vigorous young Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association, abetted no doubt by the oil companies which do a major business with it, and by the contractors for whom the road would be a fat piece of business. Already a syndicate has been formed, ready to put $50,000,000 into the highway, to turn it over to the State after it has paid for itself.

However it goes, the State will be in for a rousing fray.

CRIME

"Bruno's Out!"

To those words there opened last week the third act of an amazing drama of crime and politics.

Through the dusky streets of Kelayres, Pa., on November 5, 1934, wound a political parade that was destined to make that little Schuylkill County mining hamlet's name one of the most ill-famed in Pennsylvania history. A hotbed of politics, for the first time in years the village was witnessing a Democratic election eve rally that dwarfed the ones usually staged by Republican Boss Joseph J. Bruno, county detective and Kelayres justice of the peace.

As 70-year-old flag bearer Frank Fiorella pivoted spryly at the intersection before the shutter-darkened Bruno home, some marchers raised taunting jeers. What answered them sent a chill of horror through the State. Almost before the marchers heard the quick rattle of machine gun-fire, they saw Fiorella sprawl into the mud, his flag riddled, his greying skull ripped open. A spectator who tried to drag him to safety also pitched into the street. When Kelayres' massacre ended a few minutes later, five marchers lay dead, 16 wounded.

Fortnight ago, a week before last Christmas, Boss Joe Bruno, his brother, two sons and two nephews lay comfortably in Schuylkill County jail at Pottsville, where all were trusties, awaiting their transfer to Eastern Penitentiary for life imprisonment, when suddenly this amazing case budded into an amazing sequel. Taken out by a guard to "see his dentist," Boss Bruno disappeared. By the time his guard got around to calling the jail to ask whether Boss Bruno had returned, he had apparently vanished into thin air. When Attorney-General Charles J. Margiotti rushed down to Pottsville to take charge of the case, there was revealed a startling sequence of events which presaged a searching investigation of the dark crannies of Schuylkill County politics.

When State Troopers, called to the massacre scene that November day in 1934, found eleven guns, one machine gun purchased two months before the killings, hundreds of rounds of ammunition and an arsenal of dynamite in Bruno's bedroom, the Bruno clan was charged with murder on five counts. At five of the costliest ($100,000) trials in Schuylkill County history, tried by special prosecutors because Republican District Attorney LeRoy Enterline refused to prosecute his subordinate, Bruno and his brother Phillip, coal company official and township tax collector, were given life terms. Shorter terms were meted to his two sons and two nephews.

Bruno's appeal was carried to Supreme Court when Judge Henry Houck, son of Republican County Boss Paul Houck, charged incorrect trial procedure.* Last December the Supreme Court reversed Judge Houck. Last December 8 papers to remove the Brunos to Eastern Penitentiary were drawn and the sheriff notified. But because Bruno had expressed a desire to have Christmas outside the pen, he was not moved immediately.

Indeed, Schuylkill Prison life had been easy for the Brunos. Joe Bruno was a stranger to prison clothes and discipline. It was not uncommon to see him, immaculately dressed, dining with his wife in a Centre Street restaurant, or sipping a beer in inconspicuous taprooms. A favorite "guard" was Guy Irving.

Week before Christmas Convict Bruno called for Guard Irving to drive him down to his dentist. Ignoring Pottsville's double parking custom, Guard Irving suggested that his prisoner run up to the dentist's alone while he found a parking space. Hooking tortoise shell spectacles on his over-size nose, jauntily setting his new felt hat, and pulling up his topcoat collar, Convict Bruno stepped out of the car—and out of the ken of those officials who wanted to see him doing his life sentence behind bars. By the time Guard Irving had learned that Bruno had had no appointment with his dentist; after he had made a leisurely excursion of the taprooms seeking him, and finally asked a bartender to call up the jail, Bruno was well away.

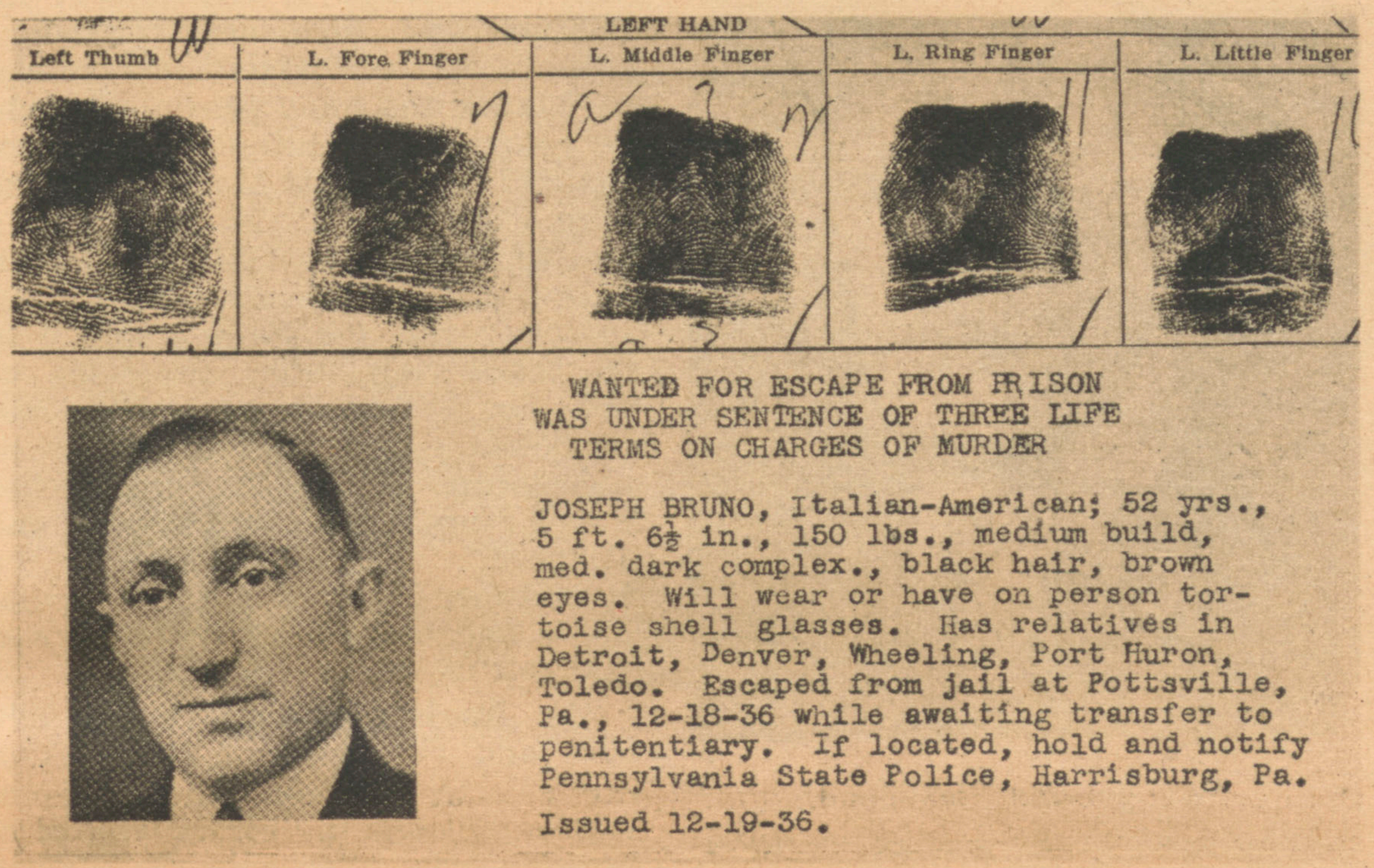
Localites rumored that he had been driven to a landing field at nearby Hometown and flown away. Other rumors placed him in Pittsburgh, New York, Baltimore. Still others had him headed for Mexico, or aboard a freighter en route to Italy. But by the time Attorney General Margiotti posted a $1,000 reward and police flooded eight states with teletype and radio flashes and circulars, no one knew, or was telling, where Bruno was.

Meantime Republican County Commissioners Alvin E. Maurer and Philip Ehrig tried cooling public opinion by discharging Warden Goslin, Deputy Robert Walker and Guard Irving. Margiotti arrested them, set $15,000 bail—which was provided almost immediately. When it was learned that Bruno's daughter, Mrs. Antoinette Billig, had visited him four times the day before, she too was held—and almost immediately freed on bail.

By this time Attorney General Margiotti, after first rebuffs by County Judge Roy Hicks, had pried open Bruno's safe deposit box. Though its contents will be unrevealed until the trial, they are reported to show Bruno as a "fixer" who had amassed a personal fortune of $500,000.

While bigshots shivered at what the Bruno diary, rumored to hold Bruno's secrets and to be in the Attorney General's hands, might reveal—and while Bruno's enemies shivered at the notion that he might be waiting to wreak vengeance on them—the five other Brunos, as Numbers D-1814, D-1815, D-1816, D-1817 and D-1818, were starting their terms in gloomy Eastern Penitentiary.

Still tightly penned up six feet beneath their martyred sod are the five marchers who met their deaths at Joseph Bruno's hands on Nov. 5, 1934.



WANTED FOR ESCAPE FROM PRISON
WAS UNDER SENTENCE OF THREE LIFE
TERMS ON CHARGES OF MURDER

JOSEPH BRUNO, Italian-American; 52 yrs., 5 ft. 6½ in., 150 lbs., medium build, med. dark complex., black hair, brown eyes. Will wear or have on person tortoise shell glasses. Has relatives in Detroit, Denver, Wheeling, Port Huron, Toledo. Escaped from jail at Pottsville, Pa., 12-18-36 while awaiting transfer to penitentiary. If located, hold and notify Pennsylvania State Police, Harrisburg, Pa.

Issued 12-19-36.

Bruno Poster

Out to eight States immediately went Bruno's face and fingerprints.

Crime Conference

In the United States, experts set the cost of crime at from one billion to a staggering eighteen billion dollars. The majority of estimates creep toward the huger figure. If its cost is between ten and eighteen billion, a two to three year moratorium on crime would soon wipe out the national debt. In 1933 more than 1,300,000 major crimes were committed in the U. S.; to them were added more than 15,000,000 minor crimes. In answer to a recent questionnaire, 85 percent of the members of the National Economic Council put crime third among the most serious problems facing the nation.

Last month several hundred crime experts met in Harrisburg to ponder crime, discuss crime, put forward suggestions for decreasing crime, at the first annual Attorney General's Conference on Crime. After listening to **Governor Earle** take a crack at judges in politics, the crime experts sat down to ponder a situation that could well be summed up in two statements once made by two eminent U. S. jurists. Said the late U. S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Taft: "It is not too much to say that the administration of the criminal law in this country is a disgrace to our civilization." Said the late, great, witty, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes: "It remains to be proved that the criminal law does not do more harm than it does good."

Most conferences on crime and criminal law sooner or later reach similar conclusions. No exception was **Attorney General Charles J. Margiotti's** conference that lasted from December 14 to 16. Some notable suggestions, conclusions, quotations from the conference:

Pennsylvania's criminal law is obsolete and inextricably confused, said **Prof. William E. Mikell** of the University of Pennsylvania, speaking on "Recodification and Correlation of the Pennsylvania Criminal Law." Since 1860, when the penal code was drawn, hundreds of new acts have been written with little regard to laws already on the books.

Thus embezzlement by a servant or clerk is a felony; embezzlement by a banker, guardian or trustee is only a misdemeanor. Passing gold or silver counterfeit coins is merely a misdemeanor; passing copper counterfeit coins is a felony. To cut out a person's eye maliciously is a misdemeanor; to give away a toy painted, as an advertisement, with the U. S. flag, is a felony. Because a person may lawfully slay a fleeing felon, but may be convicted of murder for slaying a person fleeing after committing a misdemeanor, an officer might shoot a toymaker, cannot shoot an eye-cutter. Likewise, to offer a bribe to a legislator means $1,000 fine and two years' imprisonment; actually to bribe a legislator means only $500 fine and one year's imprisonment.

Other oddities and antiquities in the form of criminal procedure were unearthed by **Prof. Edwin R. Keedy** of Penn, who is adapting the American Law Institute's Code of Criminal Procedure for use in Pennsylvania. The Act of 1860, basis of the State's criminal procedure said Prof. Keedy, is so long-winded as to be incomprehensible. One sentence runs to 538 words; another strings out to 641 words. Though the act provides forms of indictment for "the horrid practice of duelling," and for attending a masquerade party (illegal in Pennsylvania), it provides none for such crimes as arson, robbery and burglary. The text of the code is rank with such confusing verbiage as synonymous words in pairs, contradictory terms.

The Grand Jury system of Pennsylvania is obsolete, said **A. Marshall Thompson,** former Liquor Control Boardmember and Dean of the University of Pittsburgh's Law School, and **Chief Justice John W. Kephart** of the State Supreme Court. Said Dean Thompson: "It is questionable whether the Grand Jury is now needed for the function of presenting indictments in normal court proceedings. In other jurisdictions its use as a necessary factor in the indictment of criminals has been abolished, and probably we would do well to follow the example which seems to be working satisfactorily elsewhere."

Most bitter was Chief Justice Kephart's denunciation of the grand jury system. Said he: "It is not justified by requirements of justice, and if it were not an historical survival, the grand jury system of indictment would be inexplicable today." He recommended the use of the district attorney's bill as a means of indictment, without grand jury intervention save in grave crimes. In cases where a district attorney's investigation disclosed no basis for submitting the cases to a petit jury, he suggested that the district attorney have power to recommend dropping the proceedings without bringing the defendant to trial.

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*When Bruno sued one Pasquale Cara for not paying him a contract price for guaranteed "amicable action or a favorable verdict" in a suit against fire insurance companies, Judge Houck found for Bruno. On an appeal to Superior Court, on grounds that Bruno's contract was a "promise to fix the judges and the jury," Judge Houck's judgment was reversed. But apparently no presentment against Bruno was made to the district attorney on a jury-fixing charge.

WELFARE

Goodrich Report

Enormously complicated and characterized by a bewildering lack of uniformity, by overlapping and duplication of effort, by inefficiency and costliness—such is Pennsylvania's existing apparatus for handling relief and public assistance. To study this situation, whip order out of its chaos, Governor Earle last year appointed the Pennsylvania Committee on Public Assistance and Relief.

Publicly known as the Goodrich Committee, after its chairman, Dean Herbert F. Goodrich of University of Pennsylvania Law School, its personnel included some of the brightest civic luminaries of the State—editors, judges, clergymen of three denominations, a labor leader, corporation presidents, social workers.

Dean Goodrich
His plan would obliterate poor boards.

Poor Boards' Romberger
Why don't social service workers clean their own house?

Fortnight ago the Goodrich Committee released its first report, and stirred up a tempest.

In Pennsylvania's old-fashioned assistance set-up, the committee's report was radical, even revolutionary. It would tear down a structure which has been acquiring the moss of venerability for 200 years—the State's poor board system. It would scrap every one of the State's 425 poor boards, would abolish the jobs of almost 1,000 poor board office holders.

The committe recommended other changes *(see below)*, but its poor board proposal alone was enough to arouse the wrath of poor directors all over the State. First to answer was Russell E. H. Romberger, president of both the Dauphin County poor directors and of the Pennsylvania Association of Directors of the Poor. In an 8-page blast he charged that the committee had been used as a tool & catspaw by professional workers whose greedy eyes were glued to cushy jobs.

The feud between the two groups goes back a long time, to the days when social work became a profession with colleges giving courses in it and awarding degrees. Old-fashioned local poor boards maintain that the professional social worker is a prying statistical menace, a civil service fanatic who gloats over mounting unemployment figures, worms himself into a public job on the strength of his knowledge of the latest filing system, and forms himself into such a tight guild that he & his kind can be pried loose only by an Act of God.

Just as bitter are social workers out to engulf the entire public charity system. Poor board members, they claim, have puttered in their own backyards unaware that social security is a State, even a national problem, and have wasted a maximum of public money with a minimum of benefit to the local needy.

Opening big gun in the battle was Ewan Clague's report a year ago bitterly titled *Seventeenth Century Poor Relief in the Twentieth Century*. Charged he: poor boards duplicate expenditures made by other welfare agencies; poor boards are not qualified to handle taxpayers' money; in the distribution of relief to families in their homes, poor boards employ methods which are neither humane nor efficient; poor board institutional care is outrageously wasteful, inefficient, and politics-ridden.

GOODRICH REPORT. With a hearty, if implied, approval of all the charges Clague made, and of others he didn't make, the Goodrich committee proposed:

(1) **The Future Need For Public Assistance.** A State-wide program of relief & public assistance designed to care for present needs, elastic enough for future needs, must be devised and maintained.

(2) **A Unified Program.** State aid for blind, dependent children, mothers, the aged, the unemployed, should be "unified and simplified and be administered through a single permanent department of the State Government."

(3) **State Organization & Administration.** To supervise this and local administration of public assistance, the State should have a new "Department of Assistance," replacing the Emergency Relief Board and absorbing some Department of Welfare functions. Under a cabinet-ranking Secretary, the department would bring about "economies . . . unity . . . effective cooperation with the Federal government."

(4) **Local Organization & Administration.** Recommended for the permanent scrapheap are Mothers' Assistance Fund boards, Old Age Assistance Fund boards, Emergency Relief boards **and** county, district, township and borough poor boards. Powers, duties, rights & privileges now enjoyed by those boards should be turned over to uniform, 7-man "County Boards of Assistance," composed of representative citizens serving without pay save for expense allowances, and responsible for determining policy under the watchful eye of the State Department of Assistance. One all-inclusive board would thus flower in solitude where a dozen bloomed before.

(5) **Financial Problems.** The cost of all varieties of public assistance is an intolerable burden on counties, must be borne by the State. County poor boards now spend $18,000,000 annually, sweated out of real estate by a direct tax. "In view of the financial conditions of most counties, their tax burdens and tax delinquencies, the State (should) assume the full financial cost."

(6) **Coverage of Assistance: Eligibility and Adequacy.** Classifications of mothers' assistance, old age assistance and blind pensions should be retained to continue the flow of Federal funds. The Mothers' Assistance Fund Act should be amended and extended; the Old Age Assistance Fund Act should be amended to lower the age limit from 70 to 65 years. All relief functions of poor boards and of the State should be combined in County Boards of Assistance for a "general relief program, State-supervised and financed." Eligibility should be standardized, grants based on actual needs and fluctuating with the rise and fall of the cost of living.

(7) **Merit System.** Unless officers and employes of the system are selected by competitive examination, alleges the committee, competent social workers are shoved aside by expert vote-grabbers (if election determines the choice), by political henchmen (if chosen by appointment).

Now studying these seven recommendations as the basis for new legislation is a joint Senate and House committee headed by Senator Edward J. ("Jack") Thompson of Centre County. The Goodrich Committee assures them that far-reaching advantages will accrue from their system. The alleged advantages:

Substituting a State-wide system with local administrative control for "the present archaic system, with its tangle of over-lapping boards.

"Definite economies in operating as a result of uniform auditing, consolidation of offices, and elimination of duplication in case work.

"Assurance of efficient personnel.

"Relief to real estate . . . through indirect taxation by the State.

"Uniformity of the distribution of relief to those in need.

"Making possible uniform and complete statistical records of those receiving relief in order that precise information will be available at all times for intelligent planning and action.

"Enabling the State of Pennsylvania to enjoy to the fullest extent grants-in-aid made available by the Federal Social Security Act of 1935, through compliance with the requirements of the Act."

ROMBERGER BLAST. Stuff and nonsense, answered Russell E. H. Romberger. In his 8-page blast he imputed "insincerity" to the "PROFESSIONALLY MINDED ADMINISTRATORS OF RELIEF" (his capitals). The Goodrich Committee and the Goodrich report are a thin camouflage behind which hordes of social workers, rallying generally in the Public Charities Association which is housed in Philadelphia's Social Service Building, "want our jobs as a new fertile field for their operations."

Accuses Mr. Romberger: "For fifteen years the Public Charities Association of Pennsylvania (has) been attempting to put poor boards out of business, for the reason that it was the only form of public relief in existence and a fertile field of operation for them if they were successful in getting it under their control.

"All sorts of plans have been tried, such as trick legislation, whispering campaigns, defamatory propaganda, surveys made at public expense . . . in which the truth was badly misconstrued and distorted—the goal being established before the fact-finding projects really were started. The facts contained in some of the surveys have been the basis for the more recent attacks upon us."

Key plotter in this scheme, charges Mr. Romberger, is the Committee's secretary, Kenneth L. M. Pray, whose stipend is $7,200 a year. Pray is further identified as secretary of the Romberger-indicted Public Charities Association of Pennsylvania. In the report all the committee members, save Mr. Pray, list their affiliations along with their names. "Why did Mr. Pray omit his many charity affiliations?" inquires Romberger darkly. "Was it to conceal his identity with any or all of them?"

Kenneth L. M. Pray
Poor boards' Romberger saw a dark plot.

Scoring a clean hit on the issue of consolidation, of which the report makes much, Romberger asks: "If the Public Charities Association are so heartily in favor of consolidating, then why do they not start in the building where they are housed?" Thereupon he enumerates 36 charity organizations, all under one roof of the Social Service Building.

Center of the controversy, 47-year-old Dean Goodrich himself is the bookish, professorial ex-president of the Association of American Law Schools, a member of the American Bar Association, the American Law Institute, belongs to Phi Beta Kappa, and was chairman of the Philadelphia County Relief Board in 1935-36. He has been Dean of the University of Pennsylvania Law School since 1929.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Mortgages

Pennsylvania gasped last week as Philadelphia's ultra-reactionary *Inquirer* soap-boxed for ultra-radical home-mortgage legislation; chuckled at the spectacle of New Dealer Luther A. Harr, Secretary of Banking, forced into the position of admonishing the *Inquirer* to be more conservative.

Main Line dowagers who opened to the editorial page of their favorite newspaper December 10, approvingly read column one's piece calling for gradual WPA curtailment, skimmed over to column two and became apoplectic. With but a glance at the top of the page to make sure some waggish carrier hadn't delivered Dave Stern's progressive *Record*, they read the editorial that out-Sterned Stern.

Title: 6 Percent? It's Too Much!

Substance: 6 percent on home mortgages is an intolerable burden upon home-owners. In view of the reduction of interest rates in general, there is no reason for mortgage-rates to keep to their original peak. Mortgage owners deserve no greater return than other security holders. The State Banking Department should prepare legislation for the next Assembly session which would limit interest on home mortgages to a top of four percent.

Reaction: Two days later Secretary Harr cracked back in the Letters column. Reluctantly coming to the defense of the embattled dowagers whose mortgage investments were threatened, Dr. Harr said:

"I must oppose . . . legislation by Pennsylvania which would fix four percent as the legal maximum rate for mortgage money. My opposition is based on no desire to see the six percent basis maintained but because I am convinced such legislation would not produce the desired results.

"First: Such legislation would drive mortgage money out of Pennsylvania. No bank, or insurance company, or other agency or individual would lend on mortgage security in Pennsylvania as long as higher rates can be obtained in adjacent States.

"Second: It would keep 'foreign' money out of Pennsylvania. Large New York lenders, for example, would not place their money here.

"Third: The Pennsylvania tax on intangibles now makes the actual return on mortgages to their holders 5.2 percent. . . .

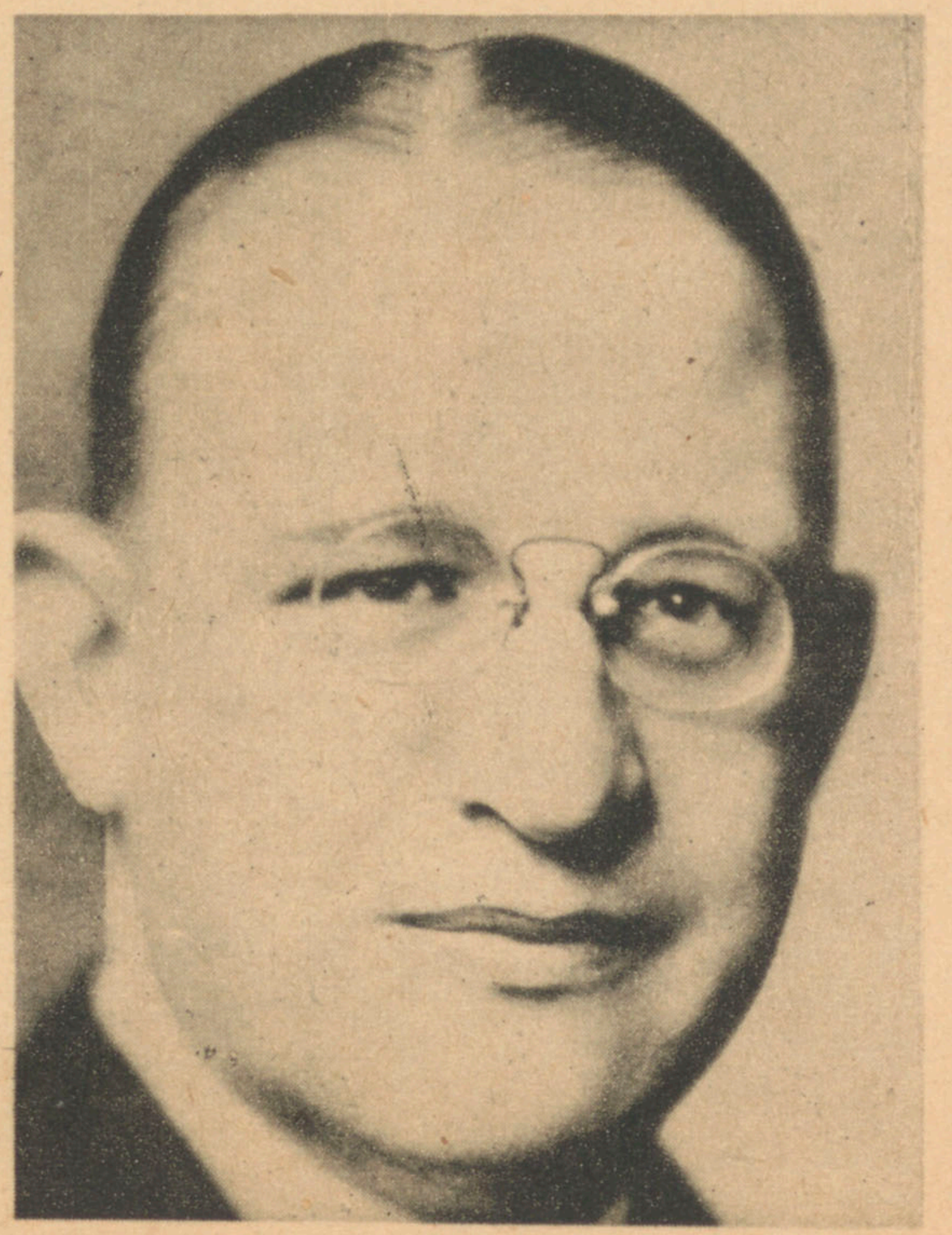
"Fourth: Such legislation would greatly embarrass if not seriously imperil hundreds of our Pennsylvania banks, insurance companies, building and loan associations, and other organizations which now have in their portfolios millions of dollars invested in 6 percent mortgages."

The solution, according to Dr. Harr, is not through State action but Federal action. The Federal Home Loan Bank System, which discounts (buys back at a slightly lower price) mortgages for its membership consisting of building and loans, credit unions, mortgage companies and insurance companies, should be expanded so that any mortgage holder might be a member. This would act to thaw out many frozen mortgages, hence tend to bring down the current interest rate.

Backstep: Admitted Moe Annenbergs' *Inquirer*, on second thought: "Dr. Harr's objections . . are valid." Clutching at straws, it called for state action participated in by New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, to join with Pennsylvania in a concerted move for reduced mortgage rates. There the matter stands, with the home owner still paying six percent, with the mortgagee still collecting or threatening foreclosure.

Actual records dug up in Mesopotamia show that real estate was used as security for mortgage loans 20 centuries before Christ. Archeologists have been unable to discover what interest rate was charged, but it may very well have been six percent, so intrenched and time-honored is this rate. Rates of interest on securities vary in rough accordance with their safety, transferability or liquidity, and the earning value of the property they represent. Home mortgages, long considered one of the safest and sanest forms of investment, the refuge of widows and orphans and B & L's, have taken a beating in the last decade as a result of the precipitous decline of real estate values.

PUBLISHER ANNENBERG
His four percent mortgage liberalizing plea . . .



SECRETARY HARR
. . . drove a New Dealer to defend embattled dowagers.

It can readily be seen that a mortgage of $10,000 issued in 1926 against a home appraised at $20,000 would not be the same investment 10 years later when the value of the property had shrunk to less than the mortgage. As property values sink, home owners have less incentive to pay the interest and hold on. Many of them, crushed by the six percent toll based on a long-dead* value, find it pays to default, move out and rent a home. Undoubtedly a reduction of interest-rates would help keep some of them in line.

In the usual foreclosure, the home owner loses everything—often more. In addition to the loss of his home, the loss of the money he has poured out as interest and sometimes as partial return of principal, he may at any time be faced by a so-called "deficiency judgment" lien on his future earnings. He has no protection against these hold-over obligations which require him to pay back to the mortgagee any sums still owed on the original amount of the mortgage. Mortgage Deficiency laws enacted in Pennsylvania during 1934 and 1935, which freed him from such legalized pocket-picking, were declared unconstitutional last October by a 6-to-1 decision of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court (see *We the People* November 7, 1936).

Total home mortgage debt in the U. S. is about $18,000,000,000. Although there are no recent figures on foreclosures, about 500,000 homes were foreclosed in 1932-33, in which the average mortgage was $3,000. Here, graphically, is the exaction levied by the six percent interest charge.

Interest on other investments, as the *Inquirer* correctly pointed out, corresponds more closely to current values. Two weeks ago, hundreds of millions of dollars worth of Government bonds were snapped up at 2½ percent. Commercial banks now pay as low as ½ of one percent. Municipal bonds seldom bring more than 3 percent.

Though the demand was surprising coming from non-socialite Moses L. ("Moe") Annenberg, there is truth in the dictum—"6 per cent.? It's Too Much!" A rumor widely heard before the election had it that Annenberg, a German Jew born in Aix-la-Chapelle and reared by Chicago West Side Jesuits, secretly supported Roosevelt for re-election but could not change the policy of "Pennsylvania's Republican Bible" overnight. The mortgage editorial might be a harbinger of things to come; the first step of a possible strategy to liberalize a paper which up to now has been a bulwark of toryism.

Alger-like, Moe Annenberg commenced his newspaper career as a penniless newsboy. After a formative period spent as chief circulation pusher for Hearst's Chicago *Examiner*, Annenberg went on to Milwaukee to set up the General News Bureau, which supplies the same service to sporting and race-track gentry as the stock ticker purveys to market players. His holdings include the *Morning Telegraph* (New York), the Miami *Tribune*, the *Daily Racing Form*, the *Daily Running Horse*, the *Racing Record*, the *Sporting Times*, *Screen Guide*, *Radio Guide*, *Official Detective Stories*. For a time, he was Hearst's chief henchman, general circulation manager of all the Hearst publications.

Last August, at the age of 58, the Poor Boy Who Made Good bought the ailing Philadelphia *Inquirer* from Mme. Eleanore Elverson Patrenote and son Raymond for a price said to be $15,000,000.

Beehive Coke

Last week, with steel production straining at capacity, the coke situation had become grave enough for *Iron Age*, the publication of the industry, to devote a lengthy article to it—and for the august *New York Times* to pick up the article for a column-long story. And it brought to light an economic survival which during depression furnished a vivid commentary on depression woes, and which now furnishes an equally vivid commentary on prosperity. That business is bee-hive coke.

Like prehistoric remains straggling desolately over Fayette County were the crumbling remains of coke ovens, their pothole tops stoved in, their giant bellies fireless. They were fit symbols of the death more than 10 years ago of the once great Connellsville coke region.

To make a ton of pig iron requires, among other ingredients, two tons of coke. Where most of the coke came from in the pre-war days was the Connellsville field, where bee-hive ovens, their flames flaring weirdly against the night sky, were the trademark of the coke regions. The Connellsville bee-hive coke industry hit its peak in 1918, when its 38,986 ovens produced 18,135,000 tons of coke worth $117,000,000. After the wartime steel boom died down, the coke fires of Fayette and Westmoreland Counties guttered out too.

One reason was that during the war the Mellons began exploiting the Koppers by-product coke oven which they had cannily acquired from its German inventor. During the war by-product coke ovens were particularly valuable because, displacing the antiquated bee-hive with its wasteful belch of smoke, the by-product oven recovered it and profitably converted it into tar, sulphate of ammonia, and benzol tuluol. Today by-product ovens are responsible for the thousands of coal-tar derivatives which this chemical age converts into millions.

Early in the depression homeless unemployed moved into the abandoned bee-hive coke ovens and made their homes there. By 1935 Fayette County had only 9,276 ovens which turned out 365,790 tons of Connellsville coke worth $1,455,000. The bee-hive coke industry seemed doomed forever.

Early in September, as steel production hit a new recovery stride, steel mills began placing orders with Connellsville companies for bee-hive coke. More orders followed. By the first of October an amazing boom had hit the moribund Connellsville region. Demand had pushed the price up from 50c to $3.80 per ton. *Iron Age* reported that bee-hive plants were so busy that "only old customers are being taken care of." Nobody knew just how much coke was being produced (the Connellsville *Courier* had discontinued as useless early in 1936 the weekly compilations it began in 1900), but estimates were that bee-hive coke production was already 400 percent over 1935's output.

Last week Fayette County's bee-hive coke ovens were forcing production fast as they could. Steel companies, straining to lift their production of steel ingots from the present 79 percent of capacity, were feeling the shortage of coke and pig iron, a condition made acute by the alarming shortage of steel scrap, which drove scrap prices up to $19 per ton, highest price since 1929. Faced with a high operating rate, steelmen had to step up pig iron production to replace steel scrap. Increased pig iron production calls for more coke. There are some 13,000 by-product coke ovens in the U. S. with a daily capacity of 172,000 net tons. Currently the Koppers Co., which makes 90 percent of all U. S. by-product ovens, is being rushed with orders after a bleak 4-year stretch when they did not erect a single oven.

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*Mortgage, considered as mort-gage, is derived from two words meaning "dead pledge."

But by-product capacity is still insufficient. Recently *Iron Age* reported: "A large company which has ample by-product coke ovens for normal requirement has been trying to purchase bee-hive coke for additional blast furnace operation, but the limit of bee-hive ovens has practically been reached, unless there is expensive rebuilding. Bee-hive coke has advanced 15 cents a ton for furnace grade and 25 cents for foundry grade.

"Coke shortage will be a deterrent to further pig iron production, and there is fear that some active blast furnaces may be forced to go out soon for relining. The shortage of ingots at many plants is shown by the fact that rail mills, though heavily loaded with orders, are operating at only 50 percent for the present."

Thus the bee-hive ovens where shivering unemployed once slept in chill Hoovervilles were last week glowing with unaccustomed fires. Experts opined that the renaissance of the bee-hive industry is a flash in the pan, and will die down when the shortage of by-product plants is remedied. But meantime Connellsville was again living through the great days when Henry Clay Frick and John Hartwell Hillman, Sr., strode its cindery paths to make coke, millions and industry.

Freight Rates Down

A 9-to-2 decision handed down a fortnight ago by the Interstate Commerce Commission in Washington spelled bad news to railroads in Pennsylvania. Denying the carriers' request to extend last year's high emergency freight rates this year, the Commission pronounced the emergency officially over.

Said the ICC: "A continuing revival of industry appears likely to result in a further increase in traffic, and no sharp general increase in operating expenses is immediately in prospect."

ICC's edict will affect Pennsylvania more than any other state; biggest individual sufferer looks like the Pennsylvania RR. Financial plums accruing to the Pennsy during the first 10 months of last year aggregated $12,500,000. Most of this dessert came from the pockets of Keystone State coal operators, since under the emergency rate schedules coal was easily the most important revenue item.

Freight rates are a subject of constant strife between railroads and coal companies. Most of the conflicts were generated by differentials between rates from various coal districts. Anthracite operators, their industry caught in the doldrums, had been among the loudest drummers for lower rates.

Expert opinion holds that the elimination of the surcharge will not impair railroad earnings this year. A traffic gain of 6 percent would compensate for the loss, and such a gain appears inevitable. Sections where surcharge commodities loom large poohpooh a 6 percent improvement, expect much more.

Transcript *Transaction*

Philadelphia publisher Clement H. Congdon was convicted in a New York Federal Court last week of engineering an ingenious $5,000,000 stock fraud. Found guilty on 19 counts of conspiracy and using the mails to defraud, Congdon, 13 others, face sentences up to 92 years and fines of $28,000. Convicted as a crooked corporation was the National Investment Transcript.

Dubbed by U. S. Attorney Leo Fennelly "one of the biggest stock frauds in the history of the country," Congdon's bunco game cost investors $2,500,000 a year during 1933 and 1934, when the Government caught up with it.

Publisher Congdon's method was a gem of simplicity. For a while he ran honest tips on bona fide stock in his garish, big-type *Sunday Transcript*, a Republican organ founded in 1832, present circulation about 60,000.

When the tip-list gained the confidence of *Transcript* readers, Congdon built up a customers' list for the National Investment Transcript which soon degenerated into a sucker list. Editorial boosts went to a firm known as Rayon Industries Corporation, whose shares were par-valued at $1, sold at $3; customers were promised a rise to $15 or $20. Witnesses described high-pressure sales tactics used to unload the stock at a time when some of Rayon's factories were being foreclosed. Customers heard rosy stories of "pools" organized by leading bankers to buy up the stock, were advised to add to their holdings—typical high-pressure selling.

BEE-HIVE OVENS

(Above) In the cold winter of 1933, a home for jobless. (Below) Now the ovens glow with coke orders.

LABOR

Steel Gets Hot

Said Steelman Charles Schwab to Editor Clarence Barron many years ago: "Since that day (of the Homestead Strike, 1892) I have never had labor unions in any of my concerns. We make our own labor unions. We organize our labor into units of 300 and then the represenatives of these 300 meet together every week. Then every fortnight they meet with the head men . . . We discuss matters but we never vote. I will not permit myself to be in the position of having labor dictate to the management."

Company unions in steel date far back but got their big impetus from NRA's 7a. With some sort of collective bargaining mandatory, steel masters pressed company unions into wide use. Paying only lip service to the concept of unionism, the steel "employe representation plan" is more of a plan than an employe representation. It has no treasury, its shanghaied members pay no dues. Elected officers may raise only minor issues, may decide these only with the approval of the management.

Steel, voice of the industry, explains why "plans" in the several mills of one corporation may not contact one another: "It would invite outsiders to bore within and take over a ready-made national organization or might offer the opportunity to some members with a flair for leadership and Napoleonic ambitions."

Fortnight ago in Pittsburgh 250 company-union "members with a flair for leadership," representing workers in 42 plants from Cleveland to the Atlantic, met, took over "a ready-made national organization," called it the "Committee for Industrial Organization Representatives Council."

Condemning the company "plan" as a "farce, a sham, an insult to the intelligence of steel workers," fighting-mad men of steel adopted a program which spells war:

(1) Immediate organization of all steel workers into a national industrial union.

(2) Company union representatives to act as recruiting agents for the Steel Workers Organizing Committee.

(3) An educational campaign to debunk the "plan" once and for all.

(4) CIO members to stay inside the company unions and dynamite from within.

Steel's Frankenstein raised four basic demands: a minimum wage of $5 a day and an increase of $1.24 for all workers now earning more than $5; a 30-hour, 5-day week; vacations with pay; double time pay for Sunday & holiday work, time & ½ for ordinary overtime.

Strike action loomed bigger than at any time since 1919 as emboldened CIO lieutenant Philip Murray made pointed remarks for the benefit of the Iron & Steel Institute. Said Murray, claiming 120,000 members for SWOC: "It has not been our purpose to organize steel by calling a strike. But if the industry . . . refuses to deal with a trade union, the results must necessarily rest on the doorstep of the management."

Even before the momentous meeting which bids fair to sweep most of the 290,000 men represented into the CIO, the hardboiled *Journal of Commerce* sang sour notes to the steel barons. Recent wage increases, editorialized the *Journal*, hopefully doled out to short-circuit the union drive, boomeranged instead to boost the militance of steel labor which took the raises as a tribute to the effectiveness of the drive. Said the *Journal*: "Even if the (CIO) claim that 2,000 workers were enrolled weekly is reduced by one-half, it would still represent one of the most remarkable records ever established by any organized labor group."

Steel overlords envisioned an additional headache. Largely responsible for the defeat of the great steel strike of 1919 were the minor public officials who chucked the Constitution overboard. In Western Pennsylvania a Senate committee uncovered wholesale violations of personal rights and liberties, arrests of strikers and organizers without warrants, imprisonment without charges, invasion of homes without legal process, a legalized reign of terror up to and including murder. Few weeks ago, steel workers read with satisfaction a letter from Pittsburgh's Mayor Cornelius Scully to Bill Gebert, Chairman of the fraternal orders supporting the SWOC. Pledged Scully:

"You have my complete sympathy and support in your stand for the protection of labor's unrestricted right to organize and for the protection of fredom of speech, press, radio, and assembly . . . Democracy and civil rights will be guarded in Pittsburgh during my administration."

Meantime in such steel baronies as Weirton (National Steel Corp.) and Homestead (U. S. Steel), SWOC organizers had gathered enough backing and confidence to appear at mill gates, openly soliciting members while guards looked on.

AGRICULTURE

Potato Plan

Some like them boiled, some mashed, some baked; others wouldn't touch them unless they are fried, or even used in such tasty dishes as German pancakes. But so normal a part of America's eating habits is the potato that America's 125,000,000 inhabitants consume three 60-lb. bushels annually.

In 1933 potato growers raised a 500,000,000-bushel crop, somewhat more than normally required. That year over-production plus Depression drove prices down to as low as 20c. This year the potato crop is short and spuds cost about $1.50. When the crop approximates 400,000,000 bushels, all interested parties are pleased. Potatoes sell for about $1, not too dear for the home pocketbook, high enough to give the grower a nice return.

Potatoes are originally American. When they made their way to Ireland, the Irish Cobbler became a famed brand. Of late years America has smartly promoted its own potatoes. Smart advertising caused housewives to call for Idaho potatoes for baking. Smart production in the past decade has shoved Maine to the top of potato producing States.

Meantime, while Maine's potato acreage has been increasing some 90,000 acres in the past ten years, Pennsylvania has lost that same acreage. Late in December Pennsylvania potato men gathered in Harrisburg in a concerted movement to do something about the Pennsylvania potato.

Last year's potato crop here was 25,000,000 bushels. Specialists averaged 254 bushels to the acre; "twiddlers"—farmers who use poor seed, fail to spray, make potatoes a sideline—got only 80 bushels. But the resultant average yield of 126 bushels is no indication that Pennsylvania's is poor potato soil. The world's highest yield per acre is from the Chester County farms of Walton & Sons, where all existing records were broken when 696 bushels were dug from one acre. In Lehigh, No. 1 potato county, Heidelberg Township raises 500,000 bushels annually, has more potato acreage than any other U. S. Township. In Pennsylvania are more than 1,100 members of the "400 Club", who must raise 400 bushels per acre. More than 400 growers have raised 500 bushels. There are more "400" growers here than in all others States combined. Over the past seven years, potatoes have been Pennnsylvania's most valuable farm crop.

So proud are Pennsylvania growers of their product that the State Farm Show has a standing offer of $5 for anyone who can distinguish between a baked Pennsylvania potato and its more publicized Idaho cousin. At last year's show the Pennsylvania Potato Growers' Association paid out not one $5 bill, although 35,000 baked potatoes, with a plentiful sprinkling of Idahoes to make the offer genuine, were sold at 5c each, generously daubed with 600 lbs. of Pennsylvania butter.

Despite the quality of their soil and merchandise, Pennsylvania potato growers are not happy. They fancied that the chain store was the villian in what would otherwise be a happy drama. Last December the chain stores themselves confessed to doing wrong by Pennsylvania's potato growers, and set out to right the wrong. The focal point of attack was the farmer's distribution habits.

A thousand stores given to buying items in carload lots found some time ago that Pennsylvania potatoes could be bought only in driblets. Early attempt to buy produce from local farmers were soon abandoned, and the chains sent men into the produce markets after carload quantities—quantities which Pennsylvania's 10,000 individualistic potato men had never been in the habit of assembling. So the Pennsylvania market baskets began to fill with potatoes from Maine, where few fences break up the 1,000-acre potato farms.

Because some 19,000 Pennsylvania stores are now members of cooperative or voluntary chains, and because these stores sell the State's housewives most of their edibles, losing this market was a major catastrophe to State growers. Few industries can prosper when, as with the $40,000,000 state potato industry, they lose one-third of their markets. The potato growers' case was not happy.

Soon chain store operators found that their lot was no happier. They noted a decline in potato district purchases. Thus one Philadelphia-managed chain, with no Maine outlets, was sending $2,000,000 to that state for potatoes, money which might otherwise have jingled from Pennsylvania farmers' pockets into their store tills.

Few groups are more traditional enemies than chain stores and farmers. But last July chain stores began trying to iron out the farmers' and their difficulties. Living up to his title of Public Relations counsel, tall Fred Johnston, press agent for the American Stores Company, presented a cooperative plan whereby chains (including independent stores in cooperative groups) and farmers might start doing business together again. High spot of the plan was its means of improving the farmers' marketing technique.

Eleven hundred members of the Potato Growers' Association—one-ninth of the State's growers—agreed to adopt a standard package, set up an inspection system to size and grade potatoes. No longer tumbled into barrels or bags, cleaned, sized and graded potatoes are packed in sturdy, attractive peck and bushel paper sacks. There are three grades. "Blue Label" potatoes must be: a minimum of two inches in diameter, no heavier than 16 ounces, free of rot or injury. "Red Labels" must not be smaller than 1½ inches, otherwise equal "Blue Labels." "Yellow Labels", packed only in bushel bags, are "rough"—too gnarled to be first grade, but free of rot, all edible. Each bag bears the number of an inspector licensed by the State Bureau of Markets.

Large growers will have their own packing and inspection plants. Small growers will use cooperative central grading plants. This year Association members hope to sell 1,000,000 bushels; eventually, to sell most of the State's potatoes through these cooperative channels. For a $1 fee anyone may join the Association. There is no commission fee, sales being made direct to store buyers, who will prefer State potatoes.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Compensation Set-up

For postmen Christmas is a season of heavy packs, mad rush, hard work. In Philadelphia Christmas week 6,500 extras helped handle 5,750,000 in one day. A puny total compared to the vast number of Christmas cards were the 600,000 forms that overburdened postmen handed to some 300,000 puzzled Pennsylvania employers last month. But for some workers and employers they were far more important than all the Christmas cards mailed. The forms were those which must be filled in by employers under the Unemployment Compensation Law. With them, a full year before any worker can receive unemployment compensation, the machinery to implement the act began its first cumbersome turns.

ROBERT L. MYERS
Represents the public as board chairman.

Machinery. The two forms, "Employer's First Statement," and "Employer's Contribution Return," must be mailed to the State Department of Labor & Industry before midnight, January 31. No employer is exempt from filing the first form, a simple registration blank with space for seven items of information.

The second, Contribution Return, is required from all employers who engage a worker for 20 or more weeks in the calendar year. (The act, patterned on the Federal law, exempts seven classes of employers, mainly agricultural, domestic, governmental and charitable. See *We the People,* Dec. 19). Labeled UC-2, this form enables the Department to tell at a glance the number of workers employed, the total amount of wages they received in a year, and the amount of the employer's contribution, which is computed by multiplying total wages by .009, or nine-tenths of one percent.

Along with form UC-2, the employer is required to enclose a check or money order, made out to the Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Fund, for the full amount of his contribution. Many employers, bewildered by the newness of the Act, will hestitate to mail their checks, fearing either overpayment or underpayment. If he pays too much, he is eligible for a refund; if he pays too little, he is subject to a penalty tax of one percent. No employee, can be asked to make any contribution; the benefits will come from the pockets of the employers, just as Workmen's Compensation payments do now. No worker can legally waive his right to compensation.

Board. Responsible for the conduct of an Act to which an entire special session of Legislature was devoted is the new Compensation Board of Review, appointed in mid-December by Governor Earle. Picked to represent the three groups most concerned with the workings of the Act—the public, workers, and employers—the board includes:

¶ Camp Hill's Robert L. Myers, Jr., representing the public, hence chairman of the Board. Appointed for six years, at $9,000 a year, Attorney Myers resigned as secretary to the Governor to become board chairman. A one-time treasurer of the Democratic State Committee, he was appointed Deputy Attorney General in the early days of the Earle administration.

¶ Seeing that labor gets a square deal will be the task of James J. McDevitt, second Board member, whose office runs for four years during which he will draw $8,500 a year. McDevitt, an active Roosevelt campaigner with Labor's Non-Partisan League in Philadelphia, is president of that city's Building Trades Council and Labor Relations Director for WPA in Philadelphia.

¶ George E. Prindible, Cambria County manufacturer of ice cream, is the third member of the Board. He will protect employers' interests for two years, at $8,500 a year. Prindible recently served as one of the 36 Roosevelt electors in the Electoral College.

One of the first tasks of the newly appointed Board is to provide for civil service examinations for at least 300 employes. For a short time, staff workers will be taken on by the usual patronage methods in order to allow the board to operate until a staff can be selected through civil service.

General duties of the Board will be set up necessary rules and regulations, pass upon & adjust workers' claims for compensation. A compensation claim must first be filed with the Department of Labor & Industry, charged with the administration of the system. The Department will determine the claim's validness, rate, amount, and time of first benefit. If there is any dispute about the Department's decisions, an appeal can be taken to special referees. Should the referees fail to adjust the case to the worker's satisfaction, he can then carry the appeal to the Board of Review. The rare difficulties which the Board will be unable to iron out can be appealed to the State Supreme Court. Such appeals must be taken within 30 days.

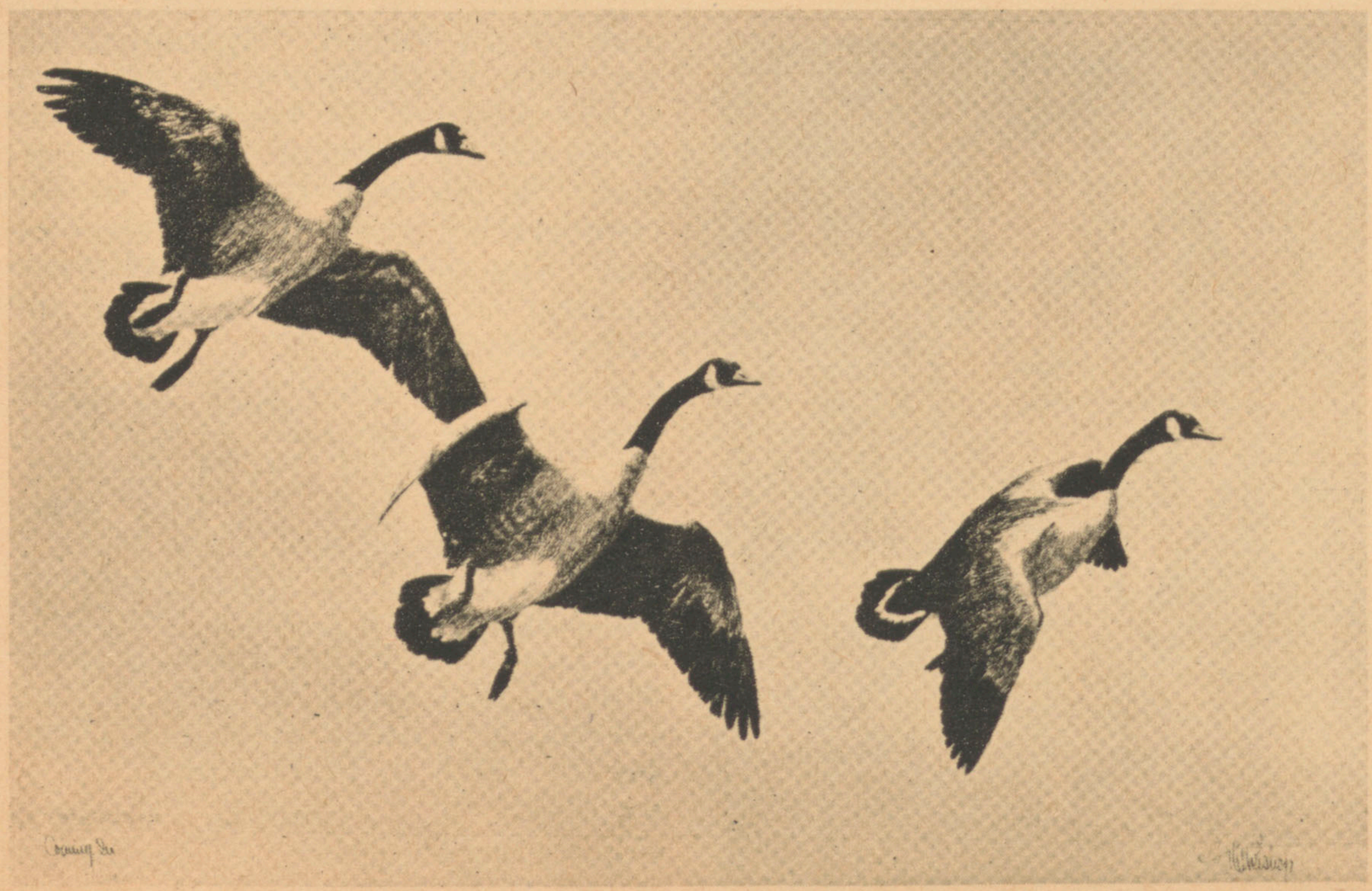
An important purpose of the new Act is to stabilize employment. Many economists hold that a small amount of unemployment lays the basis for a large amount: loss of one worker's purchasing power can throw another out of a job, since the former cannot buy what the latter was producing. The payment of unemployment benefits may stabilize employment by maintaining buying power.

ART

Duck Stamp

Every duck hunter in the United States last year had to supply himself, before he began shooting, with a Duck Stamp—the money-raising plan put in effect by Jay ("Ding) Darling, famed cartoonist and great lover of the wild duck, who resigned last year after a brief period as head of the U. S. Biological Survey. Few of the Pennsylvanians who bought duck stamps—on which appeared a picture of Canada geese—last season realized that the stamp for 1936 was designed by a Pennsylvania artist—Richard E. Bishop of Mt. Airy, Philadelphia.

As interesting as the fact that this Pennsylvanian was asked by his great & good friend, Jay Darling, to permit the use of one of his works as the design for the Duck Stamp is the manner in which Mr. Bishop became an artist.



"COMING IN"

Every hunter who went out for ducks carried a Bishop etching with him.

In the minor depression of 1921 Richard E. Bishop's job as superintendent of a rolling mill vanished into thin air. But shortly before, he had rescued from a mill waste pile some plates for a wedding invitation. From these plates, rescued from oblivion, came the idea for a new career for Mr. Bishop.

Covering the plates with paraffin and scratching them with a phonograph needle, he discovered with these home-made tools the joy of etching—and then and there decided to devote himself to art. Bishop "bit" his first plate with "pickle" from the mill. He then tried everything available in his home, even including the family washing machine wringer, to make himself a printing press to pull proofs of his completed etchings. But he found that these converted tools were not successful. Finally, he built his own equipment with regular material and proceeded to become a full-fledged etcher.

From Bishop's stylus since that day have come a long succession of wild fowl prints which, since 1927, have won him annual recognition in "Fine Prints of the Year." Bishop's first exhibited plate was *Canada Geese*, which was shown at the Philadelphia Print Club in 1924. It was there and then awarded the Charles M. Lea Prize by the Print Club. In 1932 the Print Club gave him a one-man show, in which he showed etchings mostly on his favorite subject, game birds. But there were also two studies of dogs and one of St. Mark's Church doorway.

Mr. Bishop's game bird etchings combine "tendencies naturalistic and decorative—he is less definitely concerned with ornithology than with the striking pattern effects of birds in silhouette against a sunburst or clouds." Outstanding game bird etchings in the 1932 show were *Morning at Barnegat*, *Sunset* and *The Great Heron*, which showed one lone, majestic bird.

Snow Geese is one of Bishops' most recent and finest works. It displays a fine technique, in which, with aquatint, he employs mezzotint to achieve a thin line of light outlining the dark wings of the birds against the gray of the sky. Some of his recent etchings are the result of a trip to Scotland.

Coming In, the etching which appears on every license issued to migratory bird hunters during the 1936 season *(see cut)*, was officially accepted in February, 1936. The original drawing for *Coming In*, as well as the prints showing the progress toward the finished etching, were shown at the Aacademy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Today this onetime mill superintendent whose art career began with cast-off plate and mill "pickle" is famed as an expert in wild fowl and game etchings. Topping his most notable year since he became artist, he published in October a volume of 73 of his etchings of water fowl and upland game birds. *Coming In* is one of the plates in the volume.

Procter Show

Membership in the Royal Academy is the highest palm a British artist can hope for. The only full-fledged female member is Laura Knight. Only four women have achieved associate membership. One of these four is Dod Procter. Currently, until February 17, Dod Procter is having her first U. S. one-man show in Pittsburgh's Carnegie Institute Galleries.

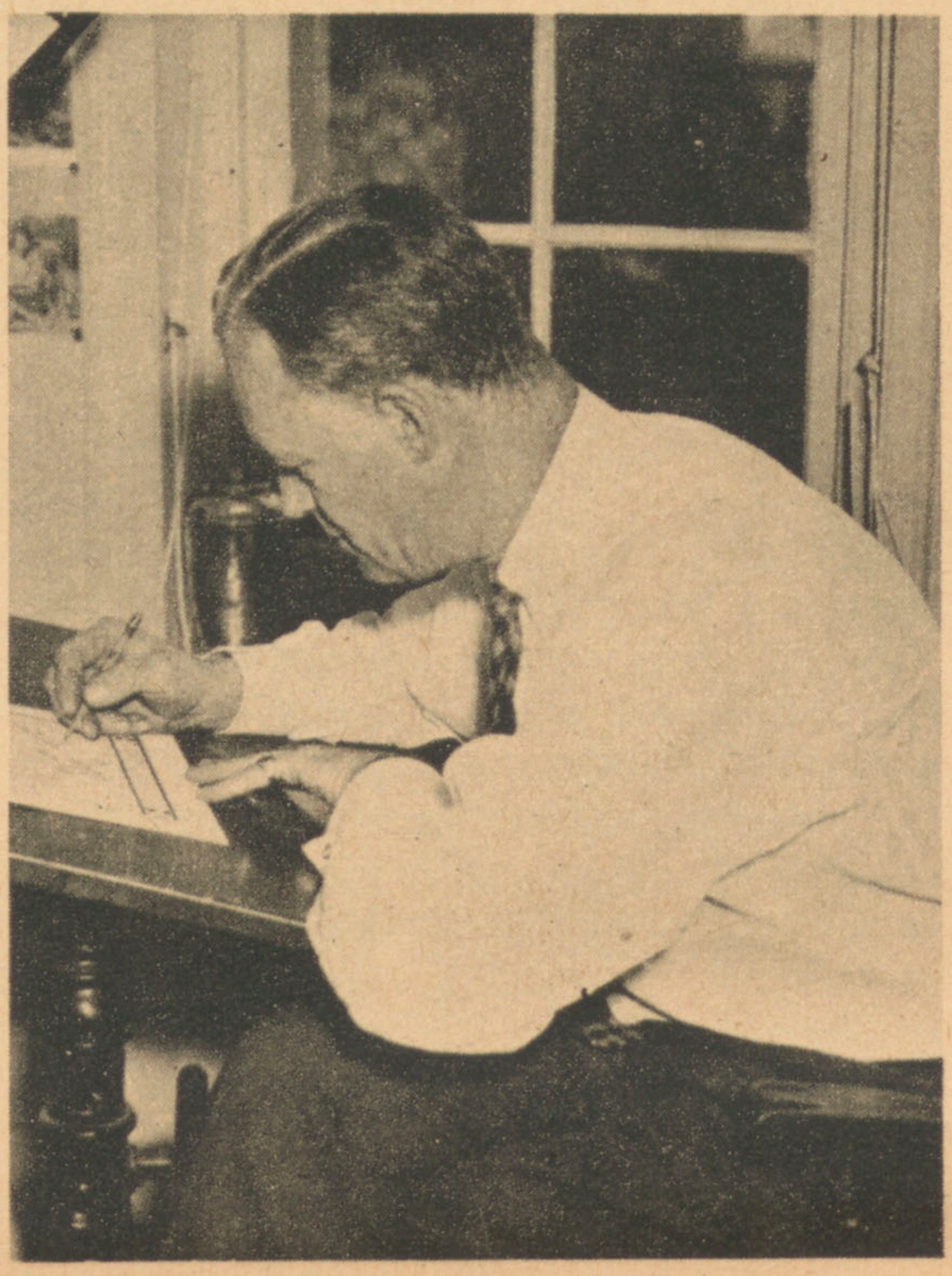
In 1924 she got her first canvas in the Carnegie International; the next year she won an honorable mention there. Pittsburghers are partial to her canvases. In last year's International she won a first honorable mention.

THEATER

Designer Oenslager

If at any time during the past month you had asked a Broadwayite who was the busiest stage designer in New York, he would have had to answer, "Donald Oenslager." Harrisburg-born Donald Oenslager caused a minor sensation along Broadway this season when he designed the sets for four productions that opened within two weeks' time. They were *Stage Door*, *Ten Million Ghosts*, *Sweet River*, and *Red, Hot and Blue*.

He followed these immediately with stage designs for *Two Hundred Were Chosen*, *Johnny Johnson* and *Matrimony Preferred*. And while all this was going on, he was arranging a show of his drawings for stage designs, lecturing twice a week at Yale, where he is Associate Professor of Scenic Design, and checking proofs for his new book, *Scenery, Then and Now*, which rolled off the presses just a few weeks before Christmas.



ARTIST BISHOP

His first plate was bitten with mill "pickle."

Like most Broadwayites, Donald Oenslager (pronounced Owen-slager) did not come from New York. In Harrisburg, where he was born 34 years ago, Donald used, when he was 6, to surprise his doctor father and his mother by puttering around the nursery of his home, daubing himself and the walls and floor with paint, sticking tacks in his fingers, getting glue on his shirt, maintaining a tight-lipped silence until he emerged to summon his family with: "See what I've got."

What he had was a childish stage setting, which his parents saw and admired with somewhat the same enthusiasm that stirs bejewelled bosoms of first nighters who pay good money to get into New York theaters where, with each lifting of the curtain, Donald Oenslager says again, in effect, "See what I've got."

Best movie settings now often outrank stage design, because movies can spend ten dollars to the stage's one, have all the elusive tricks of the camera to rely on. But to the average cinema goer the height of artistry is either an extremely realistic set in the Belasco stage tradition, else a background of 100 pianos reflected in 20 mirrors, with hundreds of pretty legs dancing atop. Stage design has become a notable art because of the technique required to conquer its limitations, fulfill its function.

When Shakespeare wrote his plays, they were acted usually in inn courtyards, on a stage either bare of props or scenery, or equipped with furnishings that required a vivid imagination in the audience. Today stage design is an art, one that is being considered as a separate kingdom in the world of art rather than a necessary but lowly province in the magic land of make believe. In this art few can claim rank with Oenslager.

Though he prefers working with plays dealing with the American scene, Oenslager has designed sets for such operas as *Salome*, *Tristan*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, and for the Bach Christmas Oratorio.

From his experience with more than 65 productions, he has reached a conclusion on his art, expressed in the introduction to his book: "Good scenic designing, like good painting and architecture, is good thinking supplemented by reasonable performance in execution."

Oenslager's mother, Mrs. Jane Oenslager, still lives in Harrisburg, where she conducts a dress shop a few blocks from the Capitol. From the first time her son showed his interest in stage design, she says, his interest grew until it became the governing influence in his life. Just where the spark came from she doesn't know, since no other members of the family have ever been connected with the stage.

Donald, whose father was a Harrisburg doctor, went to Harrisburg Academy, then to Exeter School. At Harvard ('23), he took a fine arts course with emphasis on drama, extensive work in George Pierce Baker's famed 47 Workshop, and service with the Dramatic Club as art director and scenic designer. During summers he taught design at Middlebury College in Vermont until his senior year, when the Sachs Traveling Fellowship gave him the chance to spend a year abroad.

Back in New York he served a 6 months' apprenticeship at the Greenwich Theater under famed Designer Robert Edmond Jones, which led to his designing the Neighborhood Playhouse ballet, *Sooner or Later*, his first professional job. Eight weeks later his Broadway career was launched when he designed a play called *A Bit O' Love* for the Actors Theater.

Unmarried, tall, plump, pink-cheeked and restless, Oenslager finds his art a happy combination of profit and pleasure. When he leaves his East 79th Street apartment, with its clutter of sketches, photos, blue prints and play schedules, he wanders far for rest and relaxation—but always seeking to increase his knowledge of the theater. Thus he has visited China and Japan to learn the Oriental art of play production. This summer he plans to visit India or Tibet to see how they hold the mirror up to nature.

Oenslager can claim to know the feelings of the actor for whom he designs the sets. He has appeared on the stage just once, in 1935 in Eugene O'Neil's *Desire Under the Elms*—as an extra.

CHANGE

Appointed. Edward W. ("Ted") Prendergast, former political editor of the Pittsburgh *Sun-Telegraph*, onetime president of the Pittsburgh Newspaper Guild, Capitol Hill correspondent during many a legislative session; to be secretary to Governor Earle, succeeding Robert L. Myers, Jr., (see below). Salary $7,500.

Appointed. Congressman J. Twing Brooks of Alegheny County, whose term expired Jan. 4, to be a member of the Liquor Control Board, succeeding Walter T. Grosscup, who resigned to return to his post as vice president of Lit Brothers Department Store in Philadelphia. Member of a socially prominent Pittsburgh family and brother of Pittsburgh's First National Bank president Frank Faber Brooks, Congressman Brooks was elected in the Guffey-Earle landslide of 1934. Salary on the Liquor Control Board: $10,000.

SECRETARY PRENDERGAST
Up from a newshawk's career to Governor's secretary.

Appointed. Hiram J. Bloom, 40-year-old Sunbury lawyer, to be special deputy attorney general assigned to the Department of Labor & Industry to help administer the Unemployment Compensation Act; by Attorney General Margiotti. Graduate of Bucknell and Dickinson Law School, Attorney Bloom began practicing law in Northumberland County in 1922, lost a three-cornered fight for judge in the 1935 primary.

Appointed. George H. Wagner, cashier, Pittsburgh branch, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, to be managing director of branch. He succeeds Thomas C. Griggs, retired; (see below); entered banking business in Toledo in 1909; became associated with Federal Reserve at Cleveland in 1914; was assistant cashier there before going to Pittsburgh.

Appointed. Dr. Lawrence W. Bass, research chemist with Borden Company, New York, for six years, one time executive assistant of Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, to be assistant director of Mellon Institute. Known for investigations in organic chemistry and biochemistry and literature on industrial research and chemical economics, he held Loomis Fellowship at Yale in 1922, studied at Tulane, Lille and Paris Universities and Pasteur Institute, Paris.

Sails. Cardinal Dougherty who heads a pontificial mission of 30 persons, for the Eucharistic congress in Manila, Feb. 2 to 7. The cardinal, who has been designated as the pope's 'Legate a Latere' for for the congress, will stop off in Rome en route to his destination.

Honored. James Richard Gardner, 21, Swarthmore College student, by award of Rhodes Scholarship. Other winners, Nelson J. Leonard, 20, Lehigh University; Robert A. Harman, 21, Yale; Harvey R. Wellman, 20, Cornell.

Resigned. J. R. Mulligan, Philadelphia & Reading Coal and Iron Company industrial relations engineer, to become partner in the J. M. Zerbey Company, home builders of Philadelphia; concerned in safety, health and mining education. He pioneered goggles, hard toed boots, hard miners cap.

Resigned. Thomas C. Griggs, managing director, Pittsburgh branch, Federal Reserve bank of Cleveland; in banking business in Pittsburgh 51 years; was messenger in old First National in Pittsburgh in 1885; became cashier; appointed cashier Federal Reserve branch in 1918; managing director two years ago.

Organized. Chauncey Colliery, formerly George F. Lee Coal Company; Jerome McCrystle, president, general manager; Dr. C. A. Judge treasurer, surgeon; Attorney Ralph T. Lynch, secretary, legal advisor; old output, 800 tons per week by 350 employes, to be increased under expansion program.

Died. Rev. Dr. James H. Snowden, 84 of Pittsburgh; theologian, editor of the *Presbyterian Banner*, author of 45 books on philosophy and religion; active as lecturer; one time professor at Western Theological Seminary and Washington and Jefferson College; served as pastor at First Presbyterian churches of Sharon and Washington.

Died. C. Elmer Smith, 73, president of S. Morgan Smith Company of York; developed and built hydroelectric power plants in Georgia, and North and South Carolina; one time board member of Georgia Railway and Power Company.

Died. Theodore Morgan, 84, one time Pennsylvania legislator, mayor of Sharon; general manager of American Sheet & Tin Plate Co. until it merged into United States Steel in 1901; lived in Los Angeles for past three years.

Died. Rev. Anselm Mueller, 56, privincial counselor of Capauchin Order in Pittsburgh; Guardian of St. Augustine Monastery, Pittsburgh; erstwhile pastor in Rochester and Hermon, Pa.; former chaplain at Toner Institute.

Died. H. H. Renziehausen, 72, McKeesport, who rose from a poor boy to become millionaire merchant prince and philantropist, and died in hospital of a stroke a few hours after hundreds of children enjoyed a yule party at his home.

EDUCATION

Teachers' Convention

There are 62,692 certified public school teachers in Pennsylvania, of whom 47,043 are women. But only one woman is a school superintendent. She is plump, energetic Miss Mary B. McAndrew of Carbondale, who is also the second woman president of the Pennsylvania State Education Association. Last week President McAndrew ended her term by calling to order the 600 delegates to the PSEA's 84th annual convention, held in Harrisburg.

At the 3-day session the delegates and some 2,000 interested but non-voting members of the association heard any number of speeches on subjects dear to the teaching heart. But the most important piece of business before the convention was:

Constitutional Revision. But little changed since 1929, PSEA's constitution has been bulwarked against such agitated reforms as more members from classroom teachers in the executive council; limiting membership to actual teachers; reducing departments from 14 to five.

Last week a committee of nine, representing all the convention districts in the State and including five classroom teachers, recommended all these changes in their report to the convention, along with amendments providing continuity in the executive council and allowing for easier constitutional revision.

Aimed at liberalizing PSEA, at placing more power in the hands of rank & file teachers, the report required a two-thirds majority approval to become effective in 1938. Lined up against it were members who would lose their standing through its more rigid membership requirements, and department heads who would be ousted if the number of departments were reduced.

Wages and Tenure. Something teachers have long clamored for is better wages plus more certain tenure in their jobs. PSEA delegates were no exception last week. Every nominee to office was pledged to fight for teacher tenure and higher salaries, with $50 per year increase each year for the 29,000 teachers now working in fourth class school districts at a minimum $100 monthly salary. This is provided in a tenure bill which teachers hope to lobby through the 1937 Legislature. The bill would raise fourth class teachers from $100 per month to $1,000 per year, with the minimum number of annual $50 raises set at eight.

PRESIDENT MCANDREW
When her gavel fell, she became first vice-president.

The minimum for high school teachers, now $130 monthly for a school year of varying length in the various districts, would be established at $1,170 annually, with an increment plan the same as that for grade school teacher.

Pleading their cause, educators point out that a third of those now teaching in fourth class districts are college graduates. Listeners received some slight encouragement when Superintendent of Public Instruction Lester K. Ade said in his speech on his department's legislative program that increments will be provided "upon the basis of efficient experience and additional professional education."

While talk of jobs & cash, organization & reorganization, provided the convention's top topics, interspersed were speeches by educators from far & near dealing with everything from kindergarten to economics.

Here and Abroad. Comparing education in this and other lands, Professor Charles T. Loram of Yale declared: "In this country we seem to lack a clearly expressed educational ideal such as is possessed by highly nationalistic countries such as Germany, Italy and Japan, by the great communist state of Russia, and by some democracies such as France and England . . . Our inability to devise a system of financial support for education without undue interference, such a system as has been developed in England, results in our inability to give effect to that equality of educational opportunity which is the basis of democracy."

Communism and Fascism. Discusion of Communism and Fascism and other current political philosophies in the school was recommended by Dr. H. C. Brunner of Columbia University, who warned: " . . . youth has an insatiable curiosity for the new and unknown, and particularly for the hidden and forbidden. A curiculum whic will enable the pupils in our schools to define more clearly and accurately for themselves the real tenets of special forms of government such a European Communism may constitute the soundest kind of insurance for the preservation of the best of our American ideals."

While some delegates in their free hours cut capers in Harrisburg's night clubs, others went sightseeing, others talked politics, in hotel rooms, the job of supervising the convention business rested mainly in the capable hands of suave white-haired Dr. J. Herbert Kelly, unanimously re-elected executive secretary of the association at the opening session.

Nominations for other officers were: President, C. F. Maxwell, Greensburg; Nelson Addleman, Mount Pleasant; R. R. Abernethy, Harrisburg, and J. Frank Faust, Chambersburg. Second vice president (Miss McAndrew automatically becomes first vice president): Miss Elizabeth Ledwidge, Pittsburgh; Dr. Fred P. Corson, Carlisle; Holman White, Philadelphia; B. M. Hockenberry, Butler, and J. D. App, Harrisburg.

MISCELLANY

Drummer

Pride & joy of wealthy Edward Townsend Stotesbury, head of Philadelphia's Drexel & Company, Morgan affiliate, is his ability as a drummer. Every year proud Drummer Stotesbury has beaten out a tattoo at the annual dinner of the Union League's Kindergarten Club, at which its staid members indulge in youthful tomfoolery. But at its last meeting in December Drummer Stotesbury refused to drum—at least, not for photographers. The last time a picture was taken, confessed he, "A Kansas City lady wrote me and told me I ought to be ashamed of myself—and at my age, too! So, much as I like to play the drums, there'll be no more of that sort of thing for news picture services to broadcast all over the country."

Hilarity reigned, however, as dignataries decked themselves in rompers, and, cooing delightedly, played with rattles, dolls and mechanical toys. Abashed indeed were five new members donning bonnets and dresses for the first time; Judge Allen M. Stearne of Orphans' Court; A. E. Chevalier, past president of the Rotary Club; Manufacturer George F. Hoffman; Elevator Magnate Charles M. Sullivan, and Cement Maker George H. Elliott. Cavorting with them were older members, Philadelphia's leading businessmen, industrialists, financiers and jurists.

Indian Trouble

In Pittsburgh Ace Blue Eagle, art director of Bacone College, Muskogee, Okla., only Indian college, deplored the fact that American Indians have gone commercial. Denying that the race is dying out, Ace Blue Eagle admitted sorrowfully that the tribes are losing tribal distinctions to cash in on white men's desire for Indian handiwork. Plains Indians now follow the pursuits of village Indians so they can sell more Indian-made objects. Blue Eagle wants each tribe to stick to its own art.

Prosperity and Religion

In Franklin, prosperity and religion were credited with enlivening consciences by Store Manager Warren Negus. Examples: two dimes sent in by a woman who had taken two pairs of stockings years ago; $2 sent by a woman for various small shoplifted articles; a boy of eight who confessed to taking small articles and expressed anxiety to work out their value. Said Negus: "It looks as if prosperity and a deeper spirit of religion are beginning to pay real dividends.

Deer Trouble

While unsuccessful deer hunters were cursing their bad luck and telling how they never saw one, Parks Director Henry Hornbostel of Allegheny County wondered what to do about his deer herd. He wanted to dispose of 60 of the 110 deer in his South Park herd because prolific does had dropped so many fawns that their feed bill is becoming a major problem. County Commissioners pondered selling the surplus deer, else turning them loose in counties where deer hunting is popular and deer scarce.

Suspicious

In Lancaster, suspicious Constable Clarence Gallagher, who conducted a side-line business in off-color postcards, was right when he wrote to a correspondent in Horatio, S. C., "I can't send you cards, you might be a postal inspector or a G-Man." But because an answering letter told him the idea was silly, he filled the order. His correspondent was a postal inspector.

Wanderlust

2,000 books, dispatched by the Pennsylvania State Library, now roam over the State. The Extension Library idea is supplemented by 7,000 slides, numberless reels of film for 6 traveling projection machines. If Mohammed won't go to the movie, the movie will come to Mohammed.

Anniversary

Oldest justice of the peace in Pennsylvania, Oliver J. Knauss of Macungie, 83, looks forward to May when he will observe the sixtieth anniversary as a justice. Erstwhile school teacher and school board secretary, he is an expert snare drummer.

Girdle

Philadelphia police became suspicious when they noticed that the girdle Louis Carlmocco was wearing had no slenderizing effect. They investigated, found it stuffed with thousands of numbers racket slips, all neatly strapped around his waist.

Wigless Killer

Duquesne's ex-policeman Martin Sullivan, slayer of five persons, languished in the county jail minus his wig. Afraid of catching cold, Sullivan complained that waggish jail employes had filched his headpiece. Sullivan admits he is headed for the electric chair, told his son to "do nothing about it." He does intend, however, to fight to regain the wig.

Locomotive

Weighty indeed is the problem facing the Wilkes-Barre Historical Society, last week presented with "Little Jack," onetime Lehigh Valley inspection engine, left the society by the late John B. Vaughn, railroad hobbyist. "Little Jack" was part of Mr. Vaughn's collection which included 700 feet of railroad track, a round house, three locomotives.

Forgotten

The "forgotten man" has been reclaimed by President Roosevelt, but what's to become of Philadelphia's Vice and Crime Commission? It's a myth, members grumble as the only thing they can learn of their duties is what they read in the newspapers. They've had no formal communications.

Big as Dogs

Pity the poor hunting liars of the State. Now comes Beech Curwood of Shickshinny with yarns of rabbits " as big as dogs." He didn't back it up with a picture, but with a prairie hare weighing 18 pounds. It was one of a giant breed distributed in State forests several years ago.

Gone

Gone is the little Red School House and now Wilkes-Barre is to take away the school bell. It'll be taken to Huber Field to sound time markings in football games.

Credit Buying

After 50 years Lackawanna County Court House has been paid for. Now there is a movement to replace the ancient structure.

Gall-Bladder Magic

Summit Township's Walter Uphold was the subject of a gall-bladder treatment believed to be unique in surgical & medical annals. After opening Uphold's abdomen Dr. H. E. Musser found the gall-bladder enlarged and enflamed but deemed its removal inadvisable. He inserted two tubes from which emerged 13 gall stones. Fortnight ago, he noticed something odd, an inch-an-a-half of dead tissue, protruding. The balance when extricated turned out to be the patient's gall-bladder. Never before has a gall-bladder been removed 10 weeks **after** the operation. Uphold is recovering

Historical Conflict

Documents and shells unearthed by diligent researchers of the Dauphin County Historical Society seem to prove that Camp Hill's Oyster Point, not Gettysburg, marked the high spot of the Civil War. The battle here drove the Confederate cavalry, commanded by General Jenkins, away from Harrisburg toward Gettysburg, where Jenkins combined forces with Robert E. Lee.

Wanted Dead or Alive

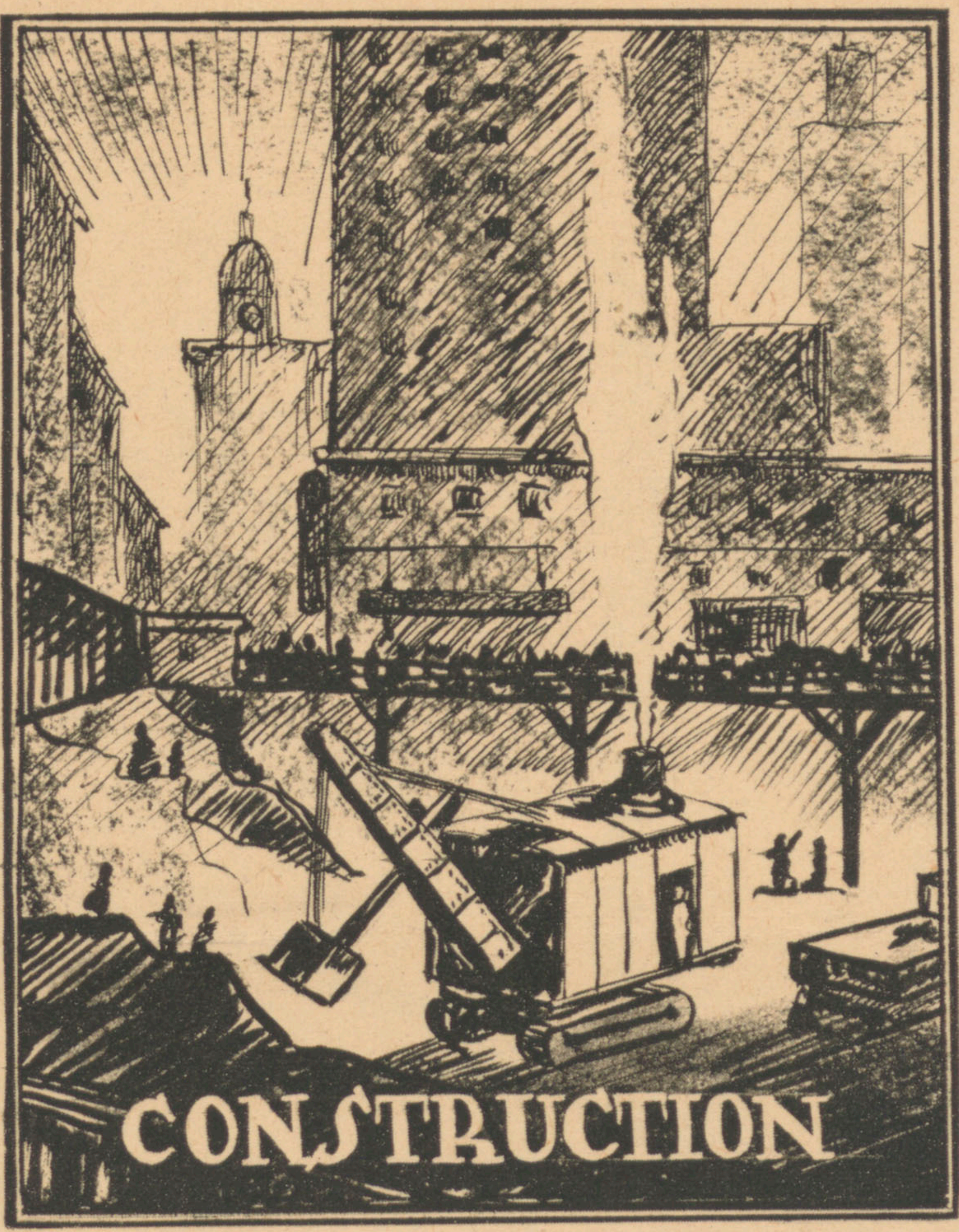
In cat-ridden Meyersdale, stray felines slink about with a price on their heads. Anxious cat-owners were warned by their paper to guard their pets against the depredations of youthful catnappers working for college science laboratories, to whom a cat is a cat regardless of social origin. Currently quoted cat value: 10c.

Finger

Little Washington police would like to put the finger on a crook who used a "finger" device to filch $1,000 from the counter of the Citizens National Bank. A startled customer watched the thief manipulate a little arm-like rod controlled by a bulb at one end, with which he pulled money through the grill. He got away before she recovered from her surprise.

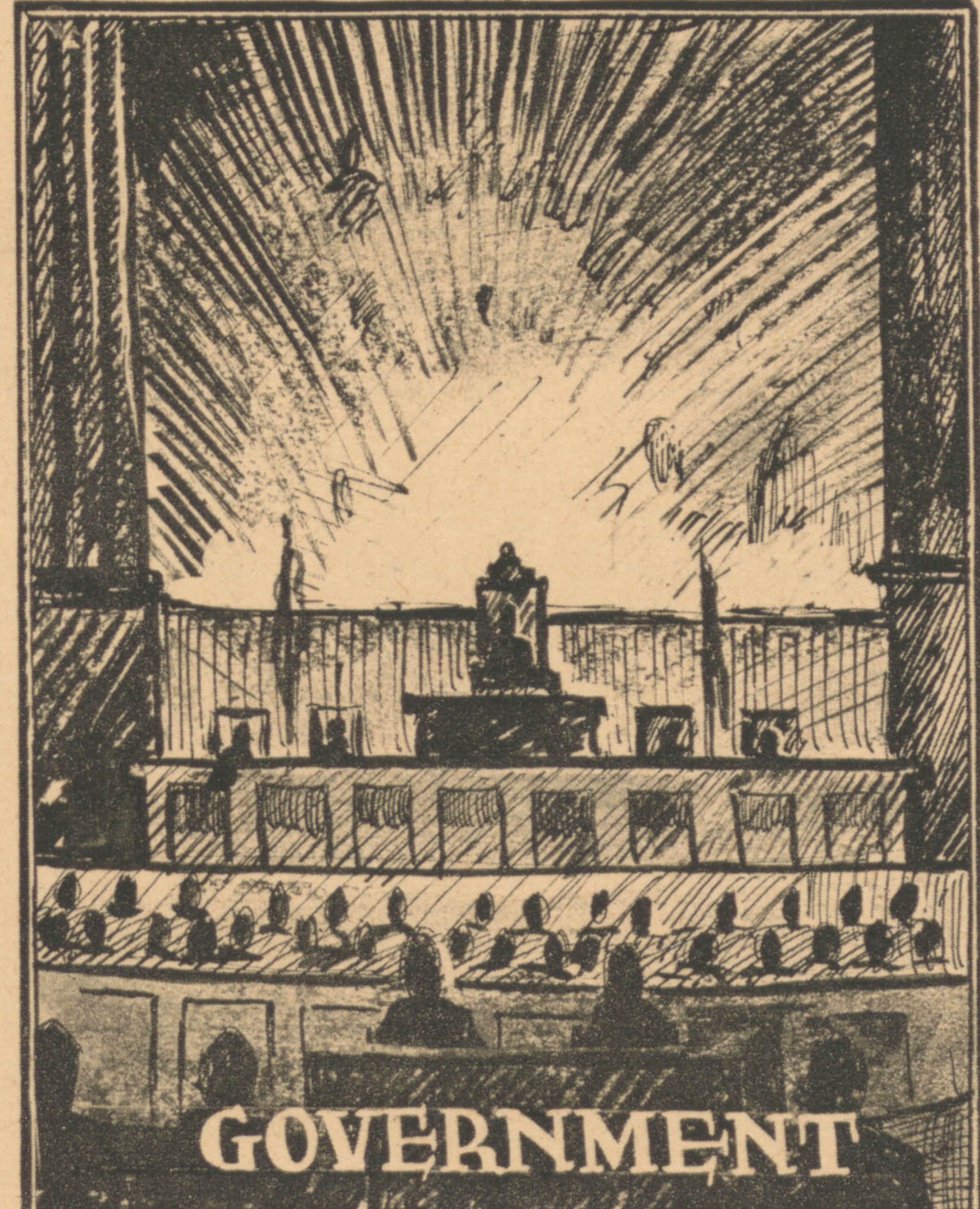
Boneyard

Old-bone collectors will convene in Philadelphia next March to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Academy of Natural Sciences, the hoariest institution of its ilk in the country. Exhibited to excited bone-lovers will be the remains of Minnesota's earliest inhabitants, China's most ancient known residents—the Peking Man, casts of the oldest human fossils. When the nation was largely wilderness, the Academy was famous in Europe as the "Lyceum of America."



WE THE PEOPLE

"PENNSYLVANIA IN REVIEW"



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